GROUND ZERO NEWS

DEDICATED TO EXPLORING ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITIES

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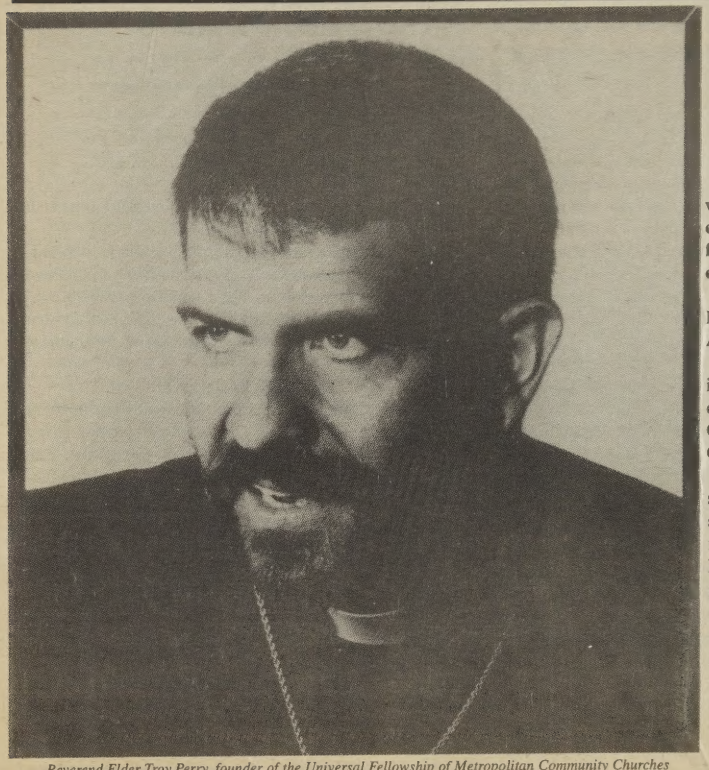


Reverend Elder Troy Perry, founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Right-Wing Stealth

A UFMCC NEWS RELEASE

"If the Christian Coalition's Contract with the American Family is implemented, gay and lesbian Americans will suffer a whole new reign of terror and intolerance in this land."

May 18, 1995 (UFMCC Headquarters, Los Angeles, CA.)

Gay and lesbian Americans were stunned in June when Ralph Reed, the executive director of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition, announced their long awaited Contract with the American Family.

"In the entire Contract, there was not one specific reference to gays and lesbians," said the Reverend Elder Troy Perry, founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community churches. "It is good news that the Coalition didn't use this occasion to bash us with their usual false charges. Still, given Pat Robertson's long range goal 'to eliminate homosexuality,' this sudden silence is too dangerous to celebrate."

Flanked by Republican leaders from across the nation including House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and presidential hopeful, Phil Gramm, Ralph Reed announced his 10 point moral agenda for the second 100 days of the 104th Congress. "We are committed," said Gingrich, "to implementing the Contract with the Family."

"If the Christian Coalition's Contract is implemented," replied Nancy Wilson, a UFMCC elder and pastor of the Los Angeles congregation, "it is possible that gay and lesbian Americans will suffer a whole new reign of terror and intolerance in the land."

"Just below its surface," claims Dr. Mel White, UFMCC's national Minister of Justice, "Ralph Reed's Contract with the American Family is just one more attempt by leaders of the radical right to reshape traditional American values in their own narrow, fundamentalist image.

The Contract is far more than the sum of its parts. It is in fact, a dangerous threat to all Americans who believe in tolerance and freedom."

See Complete Analysis by Reverend Mel White P. 3

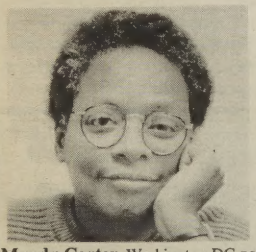
WHO WE ARE...

HONORING ACHIEVEMENT FOR GAY AND LESBIAN AMERICA

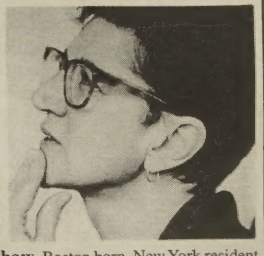
Awarded Annually to four of the many who have contributed to the quality of life for gays and lesbians

THE STONEWALL AWARDS®

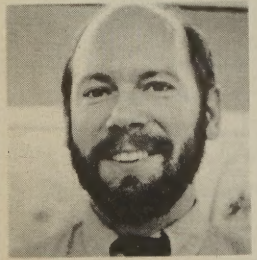
1995 Recipients



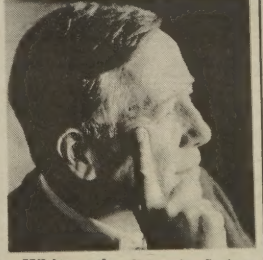
Mandy Carter, Washington DC political organizer, is Field Director of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum.



Peggy Shaw, Boston born, New York resident, is an Obie winning and highly acclaimed performance artist, playright and producer.



Jim Thomas, St. Louis, MO, is a Gay newspaper publisher (*The News Telegraph*) and gay community organizer in St. Louis.



Franklin Whitworth, Colorado Springs, CO, is a gay rightsactivist and writer and is Executive Director of Ground Zero.

Awarded first through a bequest of Paul A. Anderson, who died of AIDS in 1992..

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Mandy Carter by Kristi Gasaway, The Washington Blade
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Franklin Whitworth by Jane McBee

ARMISTEAD MAUPIN

An Interview By Julie Cooper

Armistead Maupin, writer of the *Tales of the City* series and guru of gay outness, believes gay people should accept themselves joyfully, with no apologies, and get on with the adventures of life. "We either believe its o.k. to be gay, or we don't. If we do, what's the big deal?" Maupin said in a phone interview with Ground Zero.

Lesbian and gay relations are not a dirty little secret that we need to keep from the rest of the world, for ourselves or anyone else, according to Maupin.

"I speak from my own impressions," Maupin said in the interview. "I don't necessarily honor the judgments of those who chose to keep their lives a secret. I won't censor my speech when there are those in Hollywood making homophobic movies and secretly going home to their lovers."

Despite this liberal viewpoint, Maupin grew up in the conservative South and remembers the impact of the rhetoric used during the Civil Rights Movement.

"In the 60s, I remember the term 'Special Rights' used against Blacks and how Christian leaders used the Bible to promote and defend segregation," Maupin said.

Not much has changed. The 'Special Rights' rhetoric continues to be used to oppress and deny equal rights to gays.

Even with all the negativity surrounding the gay issues, Maupin remains a staunch optimist.

"I think most Americans recognize the supreme discrimination against gay people," Maupin said. "That's why the radical right has adopted the term 'Special Rights' rather than be openly and admittedly bigoted."

Maupin condemns the religious right for denying lesbians and gays full anointing in

(Cont. See Maupin's "Design for Living "P. 3)

Armistead Maupin To Come To Colorado Springs

WHAT: A reading and autographing with guest author, Armistead Maupin. Reception to follow. The evening is open to all. Space is on a first- come-first-serve basis.

WHEN: Saturday, July 8 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: The Pride Center
125 N. Parkside Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
(just east of Montgomery Wards, on Parkside at the corner of Bijou)

How: By car, by boat, by train, on foot or on bicycle, just get there!

Why: Because we like you!

Call Ground Zero if you have any questions or if you need more information. **635-6086.**

Jane McBee

queer's eye view

by Frank Whitworth

Given my druthers, I would druther write an article about a single subject and let it go at that. This column, however, seems to best serve its purpose by exploring views on a number of "short" subjects. Given that design, I will try herein to give "another" view to various aspects of the news.

GAZETTE TELEGRAPH SCRAMBLING TO SAFEGUARD READERSHIP???

Rumors have persisted for several weeks that the *Gazette-Telegraph*'s new Editor-in-Chief N. Christian Anderson wants to better balance the infamous right-wing style of the editorial page of that paper now under the direction of Dan Griswold and dominated by the right wing and tasteless "humor" of Chuck Asay. Could it be that we will soon be saying goodbye to these two stalwarts of the radical right?

The rumors go on that the *Gazette* has suffered a severe drop in subscriptions in recent years while, at the same time, the *Denver Post* has seen a dramatic increase in subscriptions, especially since the inclusion of the Colorado Springs *Independent*. The *Independent*, it would seem, is also touting a high readership and a healthy economic state for so young a publication.

The situation parallels happenings at the flagship of the Freedom Chain (that owns the *Gazette*), the *Orange County Register*, where the *LA Times* has made dramatic increases in that conservative county (recently establishing a large permanent office), with dramatic drops in readership being felt by the *Register*. The *Register*, a former bastion of right wing ideology, has been moving dramatically leftward. Recently they even included same sex personals with their already profitable personals for heterosexuals. Gasp, Wheeze—give me air! I may faint. Can the same fate be far behind for the *Gazette*?

Now, don't get me wrong. I could care less if there were no personals in either paper. I don't use them—have no desire to use them and don't read them. Yet, if they are going to be there (and because they are so profitable, I believe they will stay there) equal treatment and access dictates that they included homosexual, bisexual and heterosexual listings.

Meanwhile, I am happy that the *Gazette* has felt the economic pressure of people individually making the decision not to subscribe to it as long as it has such an unbalanced editorial policy. I don't deny them their right under the law to be this way and no one can deny me the right to not buy their paper—which I don't. It's going to take a lot of doing to convince me that I should give money to the very people that often hand over almost 100% of their editorial pages to those who would establish a policy of exclusion against me and who would divide America between the haves and those who have less and between the controllers of the power structure and the powerless. But, by golly, it's great to see the positive results of "competition" in action.

RITA V. KEVIN

Last October Rita Ague of the Colorado Springs Minority Coalition, charged Kevin Tebedo, Executive Director of Colorado for Family Values, with harassment as an outcome of a report by her that Tebedo had assaulted her after an interview at KKTV. On Monday June 12, the District Attorney was forced to drop charges against Tebedo when it became apparent that a witness changed the story he had previously told to a local reporter and would no longer affirm the happenings of the alleged assault. The District Attorney, it has been reported, was left with no choice as the case had evolved to a "he said/she said" situation, there being no other witnesses.

PIKES PEAK GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

It's really pleasing to see the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center up and running again. The community needs them—they do good work and I for one hope that they will, with all of our support, see better times in the future. Their inclusion in and support of Pride Center from the beginning has made us all stronger and as they develop programs that will utilize the Center, I am confident we are all going to feel their positive influence on the community.

RUSH RUSHES TO PROTECT RESOURCE

Perhaps some of the more amusing moments I spent this past month were in listening to Rush Limbaugh struggling to defend Arnold Swarzenegger's brand of violence, blood and mayhem as found in his movies (and by inference, the same of Mel Gibson), in spite of the radical right's attack on Hollywood's exploitation of themes of violence.

As I understand it, Rush believes that all of the wanton display of blood, guts and mayhem aren't so bad in Swarzenegger movies because the good guy always wins—like with John Wayne movies. Come on, Rush, are you sure it isn't just because Swarzenegger and homophobe Mel Gibson are big financial and verbal supporters of the radical right (as was Wayne) that you find them so acceptable? What a hypocrite you are.

Of course, the day after seeing this asinine performance by Limbaugh, I tuned in a C-Span program and there was Presidential timber, Bob Dole, extolling the same message. You don't suppose Rush and Bob use the same writers, do you?

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ENDS—WHITE DOMINATION RETURNS

I know that it is not a gay issue specifically, but I am constantly amazed at the attack on Affirmative Action. I can accept that these programs may need reforming, but the Republican approach has not been reform. It is the white male fundamentalist approach of total elimination of the much needed program that issues from their mouths. Gays and Lesbians have always stated that it is not their desire or intention to be included in affirmative action programs but I am as sure of the rightness of continuing the program as I can be. You don't cure 300 years of racial oppression and injustice in thirty years.

I was never more convinced of the need for this continued protection than when I heard of events in Richmond, Virginia. Two years ago, Richmond awarded thirty-seven percent of its municipal contracts to minorities (somewhat less than—but close to its racial makeup).

Today, two years after ending affirmative action in awarding contracts, Richmond only gave somewhere around two percent of city contracts to these minorities. White controlled companies receive 98% of the contracts in that city—a city that is one of the more liberal of southern cities. Go figure!

CLINTON RETREATS

When I was young I was often amused by the fact that almost every highway and byway that you traveled in my native Virginia bore historical markers noting that Lee retreated along that road. I am sure that old Robert retreated over every inch of that state. Lee in Virginia, however, had nothing on Clinton in Washington D.C.

Just when efforts to rebuild the coalition that is Clinton's only hope for reelection were beginning to get into full swing, the President waffled his way right back into affirmed indecisiveness and a failure to support previous positions. In refusing to enter the Amendment 2 case, Clinton retreated through inaction from his strong statement of less than a year ago opposing said initiatives. His justification was a thin-veiled spate of legalistic jargon that history does not support.

Perhaps the President feels that the gay and lesbian community will have nowhere else to turn. Adding this to the failed "Don't ask—Don't Tell" debacle certainly will make it difficult for me to give my support to Clinton. I'd almost rather have a conservative in the White House. At least I can count on what he is going to do and defend against it.

I haven't given up hope yet and will continue to work to build those coalitions, believing that it is more than just a gay and lesbian issue. But I'd best see some sign from on high soon, or I may just change my mind and start looking at third party alternatives.

STONEWALL AWARDS

Thanks to all my friends and supporters for their words of congratulations on my being named a recipient of the 1995 Stonewall Award. It was an honest-to-God thrill that was made even more exciting by being able to share it with my community of friends. I view it also as an affirmation of the work that Ground Zero and I have been doing to build coalition, work on the grassroots level and to become involved and visible in the community at large.

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GROUND ZERO

A lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered supportive movement dedicated to securing and maintaining basic civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered citizens; and to unifying and promoting full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered citizens in the community at large through the means of education, coalition, and visibility.

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MOVING????

Well, your GZN won't follow unless you let us know where you are. We mail Non-Profit Bulk Rate and that mail goes in the trash if not deliverable to the address on the mailing label!!! Editor

SPECIAL THANKS

GROUND ZERO NEWS acknowledges with grateful appreciation the assistance of the Gill Foundation, both through technical support and in financial grants -permitting us to continue our work in the community.

The response to Ground Zero's recent membership fundraising drive was enormous. Because of it, GZ is now able to expend funds raised from other sources completely on activities and programs, having the membership pledges to sustain general expenses and base costs.

Paraphrased from the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi

The purpose of non-violent civil disobedience is to bring about a change in a law or a situation or to provoke a response or reaction. Either way, he who is properly practicing non-violent civil obedience is always in control.

Why the Christian Coalition's 'Contract with the American Family' is a threat to Lesbian and Gay Americans

A Response by Dr. Mel White, UFMCC Minister of Justice

We must ask ourselves why Ralph Reed's Contract does not repeat the Christian Coalition's usual attack on gay and lesbian Americans. And we must decide quickly whether this silence is an olive branch or another all out declaration of war against gay and lesbian rights.

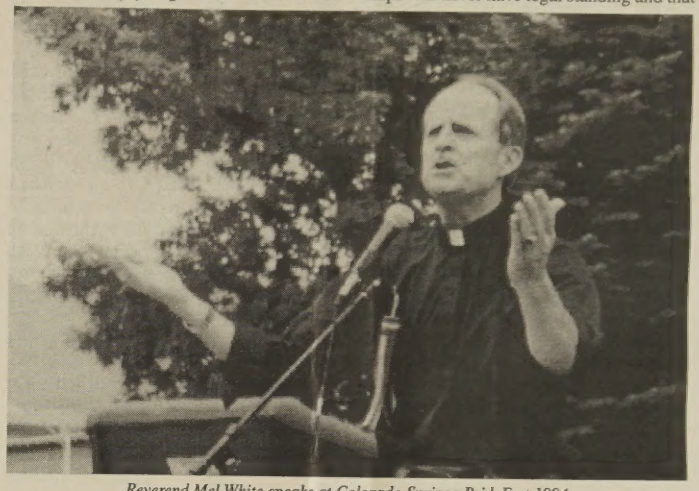
First, we don't believe for a moment that Ralph Reed is more enlightened than his boss about homosexuality or homosexuals. Ralph Reed was hired by Pat Robertson to build a political organization that could superimpose Robertson's narrow, fundamentalist view of morality on the nation. At the heart of their agenda is Pat's urge to purge our country of homosexuality and homosexuals. That they didn't use this occasion to bash gays is a change of tactic, not a change of heart.

Second, we are betting that Pat Robertson's irresponsible, anti-gay rhetoric on the 700 Club has become an embarrassment to Ralph Reed's goals to widen the Coalition's support base. (For example, Pat suggested recently that God sent earthquakes to California in part because Californians tolerate homosexuality.) We are convinced that silencing temporarily the Coalition's stream of anti-gay rhetoric is Ralph's attempt to mainstream the Christian Coalition movement and to help quiet the growing national protest against the false and inflammatory rhetoric they have used to condemn innocent lesbians and gays. In fact, the Coalition is neither mainstream nor progay.

Third, in this hostile national climate created in large part by Coalition anti-gay rhetoric, gays and lesbians have become the number one victims of hate crimes across America. This tactical silence may help cool things down abit. However, it will hurt us in the long haul to have Pat's ugly, untrue, and down-right-nutty rhetoric to be replaced by Ralph's calm, calculating double-speak. In Robertson, we knew exactly what the enemy was plotting. In Reed, we may drop our guard and forget that the Coalition's long range goal is to eliminate our rights in the process of eliminating us.

Fourth, when it comes to using coded positive language in place of negative, direct attacks, Ralph Reed is a genius. When he says "restore American family values" he means, at least in part, "eliminate abortion and gay rights." The Contract is a masterpiece of saying one thing but meaning another.

Without using the words lesbian or gay, one of the Contract's underlying assumptions is that we threaten American family values and that our threat must be met with forceful anti-gay legislation. That is the genius of the piece. By inference and innuendo, we are condemned throughout the Contract and yet we have no way to respond directly to the unjust assumptions or their consequences.



Reverend Mel White speaks at Colorado Springs PrideFest 1994

Fifth, coded language is also dangerous because it hides its real agenda. Did Ralph smile to himself at the press conference when he read those words, Contract with the American Family. Who doesn't believe in the family? Who doesn't want to save it from destruction? But just behind those innocent, coded words is another dangerous deception. Ralph, Pat, and millions of their followers believe that there is only one "legitimate" nuclear, American family with a husband, a wife, and 2.5 children. And this Contract is made to preserve and protect that nuclear, "Christian" family. If the Contract becomes law, all families without the Christian Coalition's stamp of approval, will suffer more discrimination and intolerance.

Sixth, it is obvious then, by Ralph Reed's standards, that gays and lesbians in loving, committed relationships (with or without children) can never be considered legitimate family. In a recent Christian Coalition mailing (March, 1995) they promised to use their new political muscle to fight "government-sanctioned gay marriages" and "homosexual adoptions." We must not be taken in. Behind Ralph's choirboy smile lurks Pat Robertson's stern, unblinking gaze. Behind Ralph's coded language to save the American family, an army is being mobilized precinct by precinct across America to see that our domestic partnerships will never have legal standing and that we cannot adopt or have legal custody of our own children.

Seventh, behind the Contract's notable absence of anti-gay rhetoric is another dangerous tactical reality. Ralph Reed has decided that the best way to end gay rights in America is not through federal legislation but town by town, county by county, state by state across America. Without even mentioning our name, the Contract attacks us *indirectly by undermining and eliminating* every Federal program that could aid or abet our just cause.

For example, Ralph would abolish the federal Department of Education and transfer funding to "families and school boards." That move would threaten the end of HIV/AIDS education in the public schools; the end of helpful personal counseling and support groups for lesbian/gay youth; the end of teaching lesbian/gay history; the end of funding for lesbian/gay books, films, video tapes in school libraries.

Given the Christian Coalition's promise to end gay rights in America, why do you think Ralph wants to end federal funding of the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities or the Corporation for Public Broadcasting? Do you believe that Ralph's urge to purge this nation of pornography will be satisfied by the Contract's proposal to let Ralph regulate the Internet, cable television, and the child porno industry? What will it mean to us if Ralph succeeds in repealing the U.S. Department of Education's Goals 2000 or the U.N.'s Convention on the Rights of the Child? What will happen to America's public schools if parents get Ralph's vouchers to send their children to private or parochial schools? However you feel about abortion, do you want Ralph to control that choice for all Americans? And worse, what will happen to us and to all the other Americans he doesn't like, if Ralph's Constitutional amendment gets passed, overturning First Amendment religious protections and granting Ralph, Pat and their Christian Coalition the right to preach, pray, and proselytize wherever and whenever they choose?

Eighth, to accomplish Pat Robertson's radical, right-wing, anti-gay goals, Ralph Reed is recruiting, training, and equipping an army of 2 million political activists to work in groups of ten to control the voting majority in each of America's 175,000 precincts. He is well on his way to enlisting 100,000 support churches and an annual budget of $100 million. Because it is one thing on the surface and a whole other thing at heart, this Contract becomes a dangerous and deceptive propaganda and recruitment tool. I'm betting that anyone who scans the Contract without knowing its long range goals can find something worth supporting Even gays and lesbians who find much of Ralph's conservative ways appealing, are emailing me to protest my opposition to the Contract. "Why should we oppose his provision against abortion, for one example," a gay man writes. "Why, indeed, should we *not be enthusiastically supporting it*?"

I hate abortion. Thank God the natural mother of our adopted daughter did not choose that option. I like Ralph's idea to allow mothers and homemakers to contribute $2,000 annually to their own IRA. I abhor child pornography. And I am determined that Public Broadcasting will survive with or without federal aid. But this Contract, even with those provisions we might support, is in fact a bold attempt by a fundamentalist Christian minority to replace democracy with theocracy, to undermine the separation of church and state, to override the First Amendment and to reshape American morality in its own narrow image. And though Ralph's Christian Coalition has every right to present it, we have the same right to just say no.

ARMISTEAD MAUPIN DESIGN FOR LIVING

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

faith and for using that faith against gays. He believes, however, we are winning the battle.

"I truly believe history will prove the Radical Right wrong and one day Christian leaders will apologize for the wrongs done to gays," Maupin said.

"Gay people are the most spiritual people I've ever met," he continued, "We are constantly asking ourselves what we should do in each situation."

Maupin came out at the age of 29, and soon after, met his life partner and now business manager, Terry Anderson. They share the busy life of a writer with love and commitment.

"Gay people who chose to live together and proclaim their love to the world in the face of such adversity have more than heterosexuals who don't, and can never know, the meaning and depth of that kind of love," Maupin said.

On Saturday, July 8, Maupin will be the guest of Ground Zero at the Pride Center for a reading and autographing. He looks forward to coming to Colorado Springs and holds its gay community in high regard.

"I admire your courage and stamina in the face of such brilliantly disguised bigotry," Maupin told the Colorado Springs gay community. "Sometimes I find it difficult to be out in San Francisco surrounded by tolerant people. I commend you for your spirit."

Maupin believes gays need to stop waiting for society to welcome them with open arms and learn to integrate themselves fully into society.

In 1985, The *Advocate* printed one of their most widely quoted articles, "Armistead Maupin's Design for Living." It contains seven points for making change and living as a fully inclusive person in this society.

1) Stop begging for acceptance. Accept yourself joyfully and get on with life.

2) Don't run away from straight people, they have a lot to learn from you about tolerance, humor and comfortable enjoyment of their own sexuality (Lord knows, some of them need this!)

3) Refuse to cooperate in The Lie. Nobody's job, or life, will be safe until the general public is permitted to recognize the full scope of our homosexual population.

4) Stir up some shit now and then. ('Nuf said!)

5) Don't sell your soul to the gay commercial culture. Don't swap one "Schlock-heavy lifestyle" for another. Learn from the gay experience.

6) Stop insulting the people you love by assuming they don't know you're gay. (C'mon! Do you really believe they haven't guessed or at least suspected you by now?)

7) Learn to feel mortal. "Appearances don't count for squat when they stick you in the ground," Maupin stated, "so why should you waste a single moment of your life seeming to be something your not?"

Maupin is currently writing the screenplay to his latest novel published in 1992, *Maybe the Moon,* which chronicles the adventures of a 31-inch actress in Hollywood. To date his books have been translated into 10 languages, with over a million copies in print.

"We will succeed as a movement," Maupin told Ground Zero. "We are the only political movement in the history of the world that is rooted in the need to love and be loved, and that need is thestrongest need known to humanity."

"You are one of life's buccaneers," Maupin told the gay world in his "Design For Living," "so stop feeling sorry for yourself and hoist your sails. You haven't a moment to loose."

RESTRAIGHTENING THE RECORD

Part One

BY MIKE FISHER

Warning: Material quoted from a Focus on the Family book contained herein is offensive. Discretion is advised.

Mike Fisher, a Ground Zero founding member and board member of Simple Justice, responds to Dr. Larry Burtoft's (and Focus on the Family's) book, now titled Setting the Record Straight, previoulsy called The Social Significance of Homosexuality

This article is a critique of Focus on the Family's publication, *Setting the Record Straight*, formally titled, *The Social Significance of Homosexuality: Questions and Answers* by Larry Burtoft, Ph.D. I have reviewed Franklin Whitworth's commentary appearing in the April 1995 issue and the published and unpublished correspondence between Mr. Whitworth and Dr. Burtoft. While I may address points brought up in those letters, my primary goal is provide a principled and reasoned analysis of the publication.

In the introduction, Burtoft attempts to assure readers by stating, "The attitude by which [the book] was produced is the search for truth." If Dr. Burtoft is sincere in his statement, he falls notably short in his effort. He continuously cites sources that have little or no credibility and sources that are clearly biased and anti-gay. Such sources include Ronald Bayer, Paul Cameron, Joseph Nicolosi, Judith Reisman and the Lambda Report, among others. In addition to anti-gay sources, Burtoft relies on beyond fringe publications and groups such as *PAIDIKA, The Journal of Paedophilia* and NAMBLA to support his views.

Whatever appearance of objectivity Burtoft attempts to portray is quickly lost in the introduction with the following questions:

Should ***our*** community, state or nation extend civil rights protection to sexual orientation?

Should ***our*** Armed Forces admit openly homosexual recruits? (Emphasis added)

Already the divisiveness of us vs. them comes out when Burtoft of the Public Policy Division of Focus on the Family, frames the argument as whether to include gays and lesbians in '*our*' community and '*our*' Armed Forces as if '*they*' could somehow exclude gays and lesbians from serving in the Armed Forces or expect gays and lesbians to know their 'place' in communities across the country.

What Burtoft does next is to focus the attention of his readers on the behavior of homosexuals, specifically gay men. Nearly every anti-gay publication has their own description of "personally offensive" actions and this book is no different. While he tries to appear objective by mentioning the artistic talent of Elton John in this section, the real point of his argument of "[w]hat do homosexuals do?" is to shock and offend. The following list is considered by Burtoft to be "the primary ways in which homosexuals express their sexual desires."

Mutual Masturbation (including anal digital manipulation)
Oral Copulation(insertion of penis into partner's mouth)
Anal Copulation(insertion of the penis into partner's rectum)
Anal/Oral Sex ("rimming") (licking/insertion of the tongue into partner's anus)
Vaginal/Oral Sex(licking/insertion of the tongue into partner's vagina)

As a practicing heterosexual, I was not only confused but dumbfounded by this list of behaviors. The above list is not merely representative of how gays and lesbians express their sexual desires, but how most people, no matter what their sexual orientation, express their sexual desires. Even the recent conservative sex survey from the University of Chicago admitted that oral sex, among heterosexuals, was not uncommon. Burtoft becomes less credible when he proclaims that "while such behavior is a possibility for heterosexuals, they are characteristic of homosexuals." If he were to take half the time reviewing heterosexual books on sex as he did reviewing homosexual books on sex, he would have found that the above behaviors are prevalent in most to all of them. In *The Joy of Sex* and *The New Joy of Sex* by Alex Comfort and *The Ultimate Sex Book* by Anne Hooper, most or all of these activities are not only mentioned but described in detail. If Burtoft and Focus on the Family are trying to shock their readers by this list then they may be in for a big surprise.

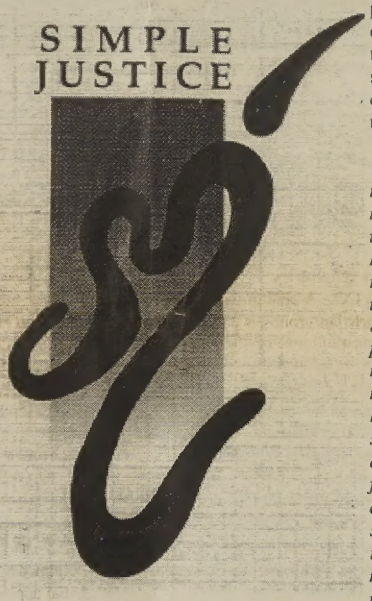
The next five activities described in the book are ones in which "[a] minority of homosexuals also engage in ... : "

Anal/Manual Sex ("fisting") (insertion of hand or arm into partner's rectum)
Sadomasochism(infliction of pain upon or by one's own partner during sexual acts)
Urinal Sex ("golden showers"/"water sports") (urination on and/or ingestion of urine)
Pedophilia(sexual relations with children and minors)
Group Sex

With the exception of pedophilia, the above listed activities are viewed by Burtoft and others as legitimate actions of homosexuals because of their inclusion in *The New Joy of Gay Sex* by Charles Silverstein and Felice Picano. If this is the criteria for measuring prevalence, then I suggest that Dr. Burtoft read the three books I cited above. All the activities, with the exception of pedophilia and "fisting" were mentioned in one or more of these publications.

To label publications from NAMBLA and PAIDIKA as quasi-scholarly is comparable to calling David Koresh a mainline Christian. Child abuse, no matter what gender the perpetrator and victim are, is an abhorrent crime. Most gay and lesbians organizations have repeatedly denounced child abuse and groups like NAMBLA. In my opinion, it is only organizations like Focus on the Family and Colorado for Family Values, who continue to publicize NAMBLA that keeps them alive.

In the section "Is Homosexuality Biological," Burtoft primarily attacks the various studies linking sexual orientation to genetic causes, intrauterine influences, physiological causes and environmental causes. After the several pages of criticism, he offers this statement:



"This is not to say that biology does not play some role; it probably does. However, whatever role it may play, there is no evidence that it is of primary influence, much less determinate. The factors leading to homosexual orientation are undoubtedly far more complex, and any understanding of them requires an openness to such complexity, and a resistance to reductionistic explanations of any kind."

I find myself agreeing with the above statement, as I do with the following statement, found in section one:

"Nor is it [sexual orientation] necessarily a matter of choice. As we shall discuss later, homosexual orientation appears generally to be rooted in experiences which most often take place in infancy and early childhood, long before any kind of choice has been made, and long before adult sexual behavior is a possibility."

Whether sexual orientation, heterosexual, bisexual or homosexual is determined by genetic, biological or environmental causes really makes no difference. If a sexual orientation gene was discovered tomorrow, would CFV and Focus on the Family discontinue their anti-gay lobbying and rhetoric? The answer, of course is no.

Next, section four tries to decide whether homosexuality is normal based on two arguments: The number of gays and lesbians in the population and by attacking Kinsey's work. Rightwing studies estimae the gay population range is from one to three percent. All the while Burtoft is citing these studies, he claims that even if the studies showed a gay and lesbian population of 10-15 percent, they would still be considered abnormal.

I would like to close now addressing a critique of the book. I have only addressed a third or one chapter. I will address the next one or two chapters next month. However, I could not resist including a portion of a letter to Franklin Whitworth, dated May 10, 1995, where Dr. Burtoft takes Frank to task for a comment made in the Ground Zero News. Dr. Burtoft states:

*"You go on to say that I claim homosexuals are 'perverted, feces eating, urine drinking, child molesting, diseased, wealthy, debauched, and inhuman threats to society. Nowhere in my work do I make such condemnatory and blanket claims about homosexuals. Nor will you find such accusations in any literature or broadcast of Focus on the Family . The reason is that neither I nor Dr. Dobson believe those things."**

Unfortunately, Dr. Burtoft is only half right. He does not make the above or similar statements in his book. However, in Focus on the Family's previous anti-gay book, *The Homosexual Agenda: What You Can Do* by Brad Hayton, there is a footnote that reads:

"Since homosexuals engage in many deviant sexual practices, such as sodomy, sadomasochism, eating feces, drinking urine, fisting, rimming, the solicitation of sex with younger males, etc. it seems almost absurd to say that all of these behaviors are innate."

While the new book, *Setting the Record Straight*, takes a somewhat softer approach, it is still filled with stereotypes and inaccuracies in effort to shock and motivate its readers to support measures like Amendment 2 and to take away civil rights to gays and lesbians.

**(Editor's Note: Whitworth contends that while Dr. Burtoft is more careful than his predecessor at Focus, leaving himself room for deniability, it is Burtoft's intention and effect to imply and leave his malable readers with the distinct impression that those things he lists are what homosexuals do. By not expanding on the fact that many heterosexuals also do these things, he futher propagates the myth.)*

Fisher's continued critique of the Burtoft book will appear in the next issue.

What a Day Saturday July 8th will be!!!
ARMISTEAD MAUPIN WILL APPEAR AT THE PRIDE CENTER AT 8 PM
(See Story Page 1)
AND
Bob Bernstein, National VP of P-Flag and Author of *Straight Parents/Gay Children: Keeping Families Together*
Will be at Chinook Book Store at 3 pm
Reading and Autograph Session

RELIGIOUS RIGHT UPDATE

Another Kennedy goes to Washington

Fort Lauderdale, FL - The Rev. D. James Kennedy of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church and Coral Ridge Ministries, wants to open an office in the nation's capital. In a recent fundraising letter, Kennedy wrote, "God has given us a vision to make our voices heard and our presence felt more effectively than ever beforc - by establishing an office for our ministry in Washington, D.C."

Called the Center for Christian Statesmanship, Kennedy's new venture joins other Religious Right groups already well-established in Washington. They include the Christian Coalition, Traditional Values Coalition, Concrned Women for America, and the Family Research Council.

"It is also crucial we establish our Washington center immediately," Kennedy said.

"We will work to achieve the goals of our Family Values Contract - opposing special privileges for homosexuals, taxpayer-funded abortions and pornography, condom distribution in the schools, and the so-called 'separation of church and state'...and supporting moral school curricula, school prayer, respect for the flag, and our Christian heritage."

One of the published purposes of Coral Ridge Ministries is "reforming the culture - protecting religious liberty and America's Christian heritage by encouraging the application of Biblical principles to all spheres of our culture and to all of life."

An end to stealth?

Chesapeake, VA - The Christian Coalition has often been accused of running "stealth" candidates for school board seats and other offices. The term originated with the Coalition's executive director, Ralph Reed, at a time when he frequently employed military terminology to describe the mission of the Christian Coalition.

Casting stealth tactics aside, the Christian Coalition began offering "school board training seminars" on May 20, 1995. The first seminar was held at the Airport Marriott in Atlanta, Georgia.

The $50 seminars are for "everyone interested in running for school board." Participants learn about education reform, parent's rights, sex education, outcome-based education, school choice, curricula, what issues to run on, and how to deal with teacher's unions.

Emphasis is placed on the actual campaign for a school board seat. The course covers how to run a winning campaign, fundraising, coalition building and organizing, identifying voters, communications, and media relations.

"No political office hits closer to home than your local school board," according to the Christian Coalition. It is a widely recognized fact that the local school board is a good place to launch a political career.

Robert Simonds of Citizens for Excellence in Education estimates that more than 12,000 conservative Christians have been elected to school board seats since 1989. Over the next few years, many of these people will be working their way up within the political system.

Open to persuasion

Washington, DC - The Council for National Policy (CNP) recently released a report on senators and congressmen "most open to persuasion." The CNP is the nation's foremost group of ultra-conservative leaders.

According to the CNP, the legislators "have records over several years of frequently switching their votes back and forth between conservative and liberal positions on legislation within the categories of economic, social, or defense/ foreign policy issues." The report states that "swing" senators and congressmen determine whether conservatives win or lose legislative battles.

The CNP report urges its influential members to "get to know these key legislators and maintain regular communication with them."

The list of more than 200 names includes legislators from every state except New Hampshire and Wyoming. One senator, Bob Packwood of Oregon, is listed as a potential swing voter in all three categories. Currently battling charges of sexual misconduct, Packwood may not be of much help to the conservatives. Prepared annually, the list does not include freshman legislators, as they have yet to establish a voting record.

"By working with them a lot," the CNP report states, "you can move them to the right."

Protect religion?

Colorado Springs, CO - A coalition of 11 conservative and Christian groups is calling for a broad-based constitutional amendment that would protect religious expression (including prayer) in all situations where non-religious expression is permitted. Supporters include the Christian Legal Society, Christian Coalition, Family Research Council, and Focus on the Family.

A second provision would forbid discrimination against anyone because of the "religious character of the speech," and would prevent the government from banning "public or ceremonial acknowledgment of the religious heritage, beliefs or traditions" of citizens.

These provisions, if added to the Constitution, would likely override more than half a dozen Supreme Court rulings over the last 20 years that have outlawed most religious activities in public schools, as well as public funding for parochial schools.

Supporters of the developing amendment believe these court decisions have gone far beyond what the framers of the Constitution intended, and instead show a "pervasive and aggressive hostility toward genuine religious expression."

"We do not want our great religious heritages and traditions treated in an apartheid manner," said Rev. Louis P. Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition. *From The Pastor's Weekly Briefing, April 28, 1995.*

CLANDESTINE COUNCIL MEETS IN VIRGINIA

By SKIPP PORTEOUS *Freedom Writer*

Approximately 375 members of the secretive Council for National Policy (CNP) held closed-door meetings at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner hotel in McClean, Virginia on May 12 and 13, 1995. Founded in1981, the CNP membership is a virtual who's who of the religious and political right-wing in the United States.

The meetings are so secretive that the press is not allowed, and no public announcements of the meetings are ever made. Plainclothes security guards carefully watch who comes and goes at the hotels where the meetings are held.

The CNP is a networking vehicle for right-wing leadership. CNP meetings enable members to become acquainted with one another, speak freely, and to plan short and long-term strategies.

At each meeting, CNP Action Inc. sponsors standing committee workshops, which provide a vehicle for members to work together to influence crucial public policy decisions. According to a CNP memo, at these workshops members "formulate strategies and execute plans to make a difference on the issues where we can have a real impact." The six permanent standing committees are:

Family co-chaired by Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family and Phyllis Schlafly of Eagle Forum.

Law and Justice co-chaired by former Attorney General Edwin Meese III and former Texas Court of Appeals judge Paul Pressler.

Economics co-chaired by former Office of Management and Budget director Jim Miller and Reed Larson of the National Right to Work Committee.

Defense and Foreign Policy co-chaired by Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and Howard Phillips of the Conservative Caucus.

Institutional Reform co-chaired by former California state senator H.L. Richardson and direct mail expert Richard Viguerie.

Environment chaired by former Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Energy Don Hodel.

At the May meeting, CNP members discussed impeachment strategies regarding presidential appointments. It was pointed out that any presidential appointee can be impeached, and that the process is quite easy. Though not mentioned specifically, it may be that they had President Clinton's nominee for Surgeon General, Dr. Henry Foster, in mind during this discussion. [Since defeating his nomination)

Two members of the House of Representatives who were swept into office last November, Rep. Steve Stockman (R-TX) and Rep. Helen Chenoweth (R-ID), spoke on "Oklahoma City, militias, and terrorism."

Stockman, a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, is a new CNP member. In the June 1995 issue of Guns & Ammo magazine, Stockman wrote: "Bill Clinton and the gun control lobby were not unhappy with the fiery end of the siege at Waco. Waco was to be a lesson to gun owners all over America: Don't own firearms that the government doesn't like."

Dr. James Dobson led a workshop called "Abortion and the Republican Party," and spoke about "the attitude of Haley Barbour." This past spring, Dobson sent a letter to Barbour, the head of the Republican National Committee (RNC), saying, "If the RNC abandons its clear pro-life position, then you leave us and millions like us with no recourse but to consider a third party candidate for president in 1996."

According to an informed source, during a question and answer session with Sen. Bob Smith, who appeared on behalf of Sen. Phil Gramm, Dobson proceeded to lecture the group about Gramm's waffling on "family values." Moderator Ed Meese cautioned Dobson that this was a question and answer session, not a debate.

According to our source, Meese finally said, "Jim, I've told you before that this is not a debate, it is a question and answer period. Now please sit down so we can have the next question."

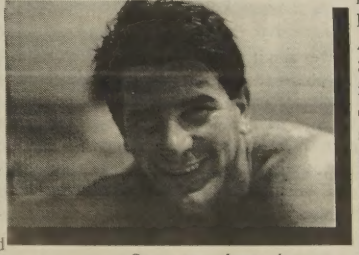
The CNP's last conference was held in February in Palm Springs, California. Discussions included capital punishment, school prayer, "defunding the left," and English as the official language of the United States.

Richard Viguerie said that the battle to defund the left "will be won primarily in the committees and subcommittees." In other words, kill funding in committees, before items come up for a vote in Congress.

Phyllis Schlafly claimed that last year Congress gave more than $1 billion to feminist organizations. She also spoke about the need to abolish the National Endowment for the Arts and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Howard Phillips called for a constitutional amendment to make English the official language. His proposal was inspired by the passage of California's Proposition 187.

Sam Broomall



On Tuesday June 13th the community of Colorado Springs lost Sam Broomall Jr. from complications due to the AIDS virus. Sam was one of the original founding members of Ground Zero and worked tirelessly to educate and galvanize this community about AIDS and Gay and Lesbian issues. Sam was an accomplished landscape architect and also worked as an assistant casting director for Hollywood films and Broadway productions.

Sam was born in Delaware County, Pennsylvania and lived in New York and Los Angeles before moving to Cascade, Colorado where his loving and wonderful parents Mary and Sam Sr. still reside. Sam also has a sister Karan Montone who lives in Eagle, Pennsylvania. Anyone who met Sam can attest to the incredible and intoxicating energy he possessed, his enormous sense of humor, his love of life and respect for nature. His persistence that all of us be proud of who we are as Gays and Lesbians and that we never ever back down even in the face of oppression never waned. Sam was a bright and beautiful star who touched many lives and taught us many lessons. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

Freedom Writer

A HARD LOOK AT THE HARD RIGHT

Ground Zero News **is pleased to continue publishing selected articles from the *Freedom Writer* (June '95 Issue), from the Institute for First Amendment Studies, P. O. Box 589, Great Barrington, MA 01230, Telephone: (413) 528-3800 e-mail: IFAS@CROCKER.COM.**

FROM THE HEART OF ONE GAY CHRISTIAN

by SAMUEL DEAN BEHRENS

I remember her holding up her finger to the class so we could all see where she had been hit by the bullet. She was telling the class how the first Pentecostal churches were the objects of violence and ridicule at the opening of this century. I was listening to Helen Davis tell her personal story of how people would get drunk and "for laughs" drive by the tent meetings and open air revivals and take pot shots at the "holy rollers" who had gathered outside to worship God.

I remember my great grandmother, Maud, telling me how she was asked to leave the Methodist church in 1906 for "speaking in tongues". As a child, I remember the Baptists down the street saying that the Pentecostals would roll around on the floor and spewforth gibberish because they were "demon possessed.." I remember Joyce telling me in the seventh grade that she couldn't go steady with me because I was a member of the Assemblies of God and her parents said that Baptists should not be "unequally yoked," whatever that meant to a twelve year old.

I was raised to understand that if your faith was different from your neighbor that unforeseen consequences would naturally flow. As I grew older, I was taught how being '"different" in the history of Christendom has been the cause for excommunication, violence, torture, vilification, demonizing and even death. This historical reality is the legacy left by Catholic and Protestant churches, all done in the name of Christ I might add. Simply because one did not believe in the accepted orthodoxy, a person automatically put their life on the line. It was true then and I am fearful that it could be true now.

Humans have always mistrusted those who questioned the authority of their "gods." Socrates, after pointing out how rule by the majority could be abused and teaching that the most important human activity is the search for truth, was sentenced to death for teaching disrespect for the gods of Athens. It was true when Jesus was tortured with the cat of nine tails and executed on the cross for challenging the orthodoxy of the religious leaders. Saint Stephen was stoned to death by the orthodoxy of his day for his preaching of the resurrected Christ.

It was true of the first Christian martyrs in Rome. St. Paul was martyred under Nero's reign. It is said that St. Peter was also martyred in Rome. Diocletian heralded huge numbers of martyrs for the cause of Christ. However, almost as soon as Constantine declared that Christianity was the official religion of the Roman Empire, the Christians became the dominators of orthodoxy, and turned around and killed those who did not believe in their teaching of Christianity!

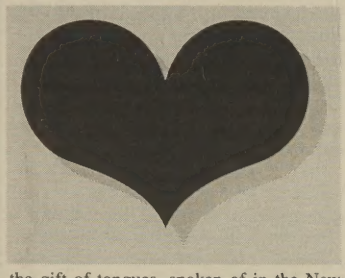
The first heretics of Christianity were the Gnostics. The next group of heretics were the Arianists, which after many years of argument and conflict, the Semi-Arians joined the ranks of orthodoxy. Time does not permit to discuss the Novationists and Donatists, the Nestorianism of the Malabar Christians, and the Monophysitism of the Jacobite Church, which was declared heretical by the Third Council of Constantinople in 680 A.D. Saint Photius of the Orthodox Church was long considered to be the initiator of the schism between Eastern and Western Churches.

For 1700 years the church has been in the business of executing and excommunicating anyone branded "heretic" Saint Joan of Arc was tried on charges of heresy and witchcraft and burned alive at the stake in Rouen in 1431. Martin Luther, the Father of the Reformation was excommunicated for questioning the authority of the Pope in 1521. Zwingli, considered the founder of the Swiss Reformed Church, disagreed with Luther and the Pope on the actual presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

William Tyndale was executed for heresy in 1536 for translating the Bible into English! The English church reformer, Hugh Latimer was burned at the stake by Queen Mary I for defending Henry VIII's break with Rome. Galileo was condemned to life imprisonment in 1633 for "vehement suspicion of heresy" for disagreeing with the ecclesiastical authority which taught that the earth was the center of the universe.

Anabaptists, the forerunners of the Baptists and Mennonites, were considered subversive because, among other things, they refused to take oaths of loyalty and were severely persecuted. The Reformers of the Catholic Church even disclaimed them. Baptists and Methodists split over issues of slavery and issues of social justice in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Old Believers were Russian Christians who were severely persecuted and suffered martyrdom for their opposition to the official stance of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Quakers, under the leadership of George Fox and his successors, were persecuted by the Puritans in America during the Puritan Commonwealth of the Massachusetts Bay Company. Pentecostals, as stated at the beginning of this article, were persecuted in the early 20th Century for their belief that



the gift of tongues, spoken of in the New Testament, did not die out in the first century.

And now, as the 20th century comes to a close and the third millennium starts, Gay and Lesbian Christians are persecuted by orthodox Christianity because of their belief that the grace of God extends to those having a different sexual orientation.

In looking at this history, one thing seemed to jump out. Every time Christianity has associated itself with a particular form of government, the most heinous forms of persecution took place by so-called 'Christians.' As soon as the government aligned itself with a particular religion, those with 'different beliefs' felt the sword of injustice.

Time does not permit to tell of the state-religious wars of history when the concept of religious tolerance was anathema to Christianity. History is replete with state sponsored murder in the name of religion. King Philip II of Spain lead a Catholic crusade to stamp out Protestant heresy. The Dutch Revolt of the Calvinists of the Netherlands is an example of the Wars of Religion. Paris ran red with the blood of Protestants in the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre. The Thirty Years War and the English Civil War were all fought in the name of 'Christian' religion.'

I have purposefully not mentioned the religious wars of those of different religious beliefs because of time and space (i.e Muslims and Jews). Because of this long history of bloodshed and murder and massacre, I now become very alarmed when groups such as the so-called 'Christian-Coalition' align themselves with Republican politicians to bring 'God' back into government. I become concerned when these groups in the name of Jesus Christ want to eliminate 'homosexuality' from America. What they are doing is setting up **their** version of Christianity, **their** interpretation of scripture and **their** literalism as the foundation of American government.

Ignoring the obvious failure of past religious states, the American psyche is marching lockstep with these false teachers of Christianity and are being blinded by their smiles and denials of setting up a "Christian state." Every believer in scripture should look closely at Christ's statement that his Kingdom is **not** of this world.

Those who would distort scripture and try to usher in the Kingdom of God by ballot are playing into the hands of those whose main goal is political power to control those who believe differently. Unless Aerca wakes up, one must liken this generation of Christians to the proverbial ostrich who sticks its head in the sand and tries to ignore the danger that is swirling around. My call is to all Christians. Wake up! Wake up to the long history of martyrdom of those who dared to think differently from the established ecclesiastical authority.

Samuel Dean Behrens is a former minister with the Assemblies of God. He left the ministry when he realized that he was gay. He is currently a director of Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice. If you would like to join or if you have any questions concerning the Justice Team, Samuel can be reached at 752 Alderwood Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660, Phone: 1-714-644-8837, FAX: 1-714-644-4592.

COORS GIVES BENEFITS TO SAME SEX PARTNERS

by RICK CENDO

Denver CO June 27, 1995–Gays and lesbians seeking greater acceptance in the workplace gained an unexpected ally last month, when what was view as one of the state's most conservative companies voted to extend employee benefits to same-sex partners.

Defying its right-wing stereotype, the Board of Directors of Coors Brewing Co. voted unanimously May 11 to join a handful of publicly traded companies nationwide that recognize homosexual "spouses." And the news, kept virtually secret to the public, has local activists applauding. [Ed. Note: *Ground Zero News* broke the news of the intention of Coors to institute this policy five months ago (February 95) in a feature article exploring Coors Brewing, the Coors Foundation, the Coors Family and the Heritage Foundation.]

"We know for sure that the Coors family has not done this from a knee-jerk liberal point of view or for political correctness," said Joanne Arnold, of CU's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Resource Center. [Note–Although, perhaps, Scott Coors has finally come out to his reactionary uncles]. Arnold plans to bring a similar proposal for domestic partner benefits before CU officials this fall.

"What they are doing at Coors is separating whatever political notions they have from doing the right thing for their employees. We hope that our regents will look at this and take comfort from it."

The company has in years past drawn criticism from women, ethnic minorities and homosexuals for its employment practices, and to some, the Adolph Coors Brewing Co., might seem an unlikely candidate for such a "progressive" policy.

In 1975, the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a lawsuit against the company, charging that it had "intentionally engaged in unlawful employment practices" since 1965. One year later, workers went on strike, complaining that they had been subject to violations of privacy, anti-union practices, and widespread discrimination against women and minorities.

At the time, potential employees were reportedly required to take polygraph tests and were asked, "Are you a homosexual?' before the interview would proceed. Workers reported random searches of lockers, cars, personal belongings, and one female employee reported that she had been strip-searched in front of male guards.

At CU, students rallied regularly in the late 1960s and 1970s protesting the conservative policies of then-Regent Joe Coors, lambasting the Adolph Coors Foundation for contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to right-wing organizations such as the John Birch Society, the Free Congress Foundation, and the Heritage Foundation.

In the gay community, activists compared Joe Coors with Adolph Hitler.

Rumors of the polygraph test, of harassment of gay employees, and of the company's contributions to the staunchly anti-gay Anita Bryant "Save the Children" Campaign prompted gay leaders to boycott all Coors products in the 1970s–a boycott that remains today in many gay circles (Ed. Note-*GZN* suggested in February that perhaps it was time to get over the Coors once efffective and needed boycott, quaff a Coors and get on to more pressing business.)

But gay Coors employees say their company has gotten a bum rap.

"It is disconnect in logic to say this is a conservative company and than look at the brewery and see how progressive its policy is," said Earl Nissen, a member of ther Lesbian and Gay Employee Resource at Coors.

According to Nissen, Coors ranks among the top 20 publicly traded companies in the nation for gay-friendly policies.

It was one of the first companies ever to include sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy. The company also funds its gay and lesbian support group, requires extensive diversity training, and provides HIV and AIDS counseling.

Nissen blames the company's ultra-conservative and anti-gay reputation on a few "false rumors" that have snowballed over the years. He said the infamous polygraph test was actually the work of one deranged person employed by the polygraph company, and that Coors never intended to include a question about sexual orientation.

Coors Spokesperson Joe Fuentes says the public misconception of Coors has come from a failure to distinguish between Coors, the brewing company, and Coors, the family. [Note: Although the company and the family are separate entities, the family still owns–and profits from–a huge, and probably controlling, portion of the company.]

The Adolph Coors Foundation, a private organization set up by family members, has outwardly supported ultra-conservative and anti-gay organizations over the years. But the brewing company has remained politically neutral, he said.

"Our top leadership just thinks this is the right thing to do," he said.

To local activists, the move is an excellent sign, regardless of the past.

"There are still a lot of unanswered questions about the relationship between the Coors family, the foundations, and the Company, but if we're just talking about the corporation–this is a great move forward," said Sue Anderson, of Equality Colorado,a gay-rights group.

Celestial Seasoning, the Tattered Cover, the City of Boulder, Quark Software and Boulder County have already implemented domestic-benefits policies, as has Microsoft, Lotus, Home Box Office, and Yale University. And some predict CU could be next.

When we look at major companies and political entities that we are surrounded by now, the models are there," said Arnold. "Enlightened employers know that satisfied, respected employees are better employees, and while they may not want to be supportive of the "gay lifestyle"' they'll agree that gays and lesbians should be treated fairly in the workplace."

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ARTISTICALLY GAY

By Julie Cooper

Local artist **al laurie** stood on the balcony of his studio which overlooks a secluded, wooded section of the Manitou Spring.

"Here I can create," laurie said as he swept his arm across the scene before him.

And create is what laurie does best. He created the huge puppets that have graced the Gay Pride Parades for the last three years. His puppets marched with Ground Zero at the 1993 March on Washington.

laurie is a sculpture by nature and incorporates sculpting into his favorite art medium, the mixed-media.

"Ever since I was a kid I loved putting weird stuff together that worked," laurie said, "and it (mixed-media) doesn't have any rules."

laurie was born on May 18, 1956, in Los Angeles,and spent summers in Colorado Springs with his grandparents. His first exposure to the arts was the Iron Springs Chateau, and he's been involved in the arts ever since.

Art is the expression of expression, it is life itself, according to laurie.

"If you look at a piece of art and it doesn't make you feel anything, then it hasn't done its job," he said."Art should wake people up, say something, or why create at all?"

Creativity and the spirit it springs from are the forces that drive this artist.

"I'm a very spiritual person, very connected to the Spirit," he said. "Without spirit, I couldn't create."

A strong influence in laurie's life has been mexican artist Frieda Kahlo, a painter whose body was accidentally impaled by a pole as a young woman. She became bed-ridden for years, and lived in pain for the rest of her life.

"She laid in her bed in agony and painted," he said, "and out of this pain she created these beautiful paintings. That's really powerful."

Laurie's artistic mentor was sculptor Michael Gonzalez, who recently died of AIDS.

"I watched him close off the world and not finish what he wanted to finish," laurie said.

"I am an artist living with AIDS," laurie said. "I'm very happy and very healthy, but I don't know where I'll be in 15 years."

"I want to do whatever I can before I close the world out," he added slowly. "It would be a real sin not to do what I wanted to before I can't. I want my time to matter."

laurie's upcoming projects include a show at the Commonwheel Artists Co-Op in Manitou Springs called "Images of Frieda" for Spring 1996, and the Names Project, the AIDS quilt tour coming to Colorado Springs next May where he will do the opening and closing ceremonies.

TOWN MEETING

The Colorado

Marriage Rights Project

Coalition

Tuesday, July 11

7:30 PM

The Pride Center

125 N. Parkside

See Story P. 13

Originally scoffed at and ridiculed by painters and sculptors, and christened profane by conservatives, the medium of photography quickly weathered the tests of society to evolve into its own art form.

Because of its ability to capture the essence of the human spirit at any moment in time, photography became the art form that would reflect the life of the every person, profoundly affirming them for whom they are and quietly blessing their right to be.

Well, almost every person.

From its inception, photographers and movie makers have purpsoefully eliminated the lives of gay men and women from this medium, not allowing them the same affirmation and blessing so generously bestowed on the rest of the population.

In 1971 **JEB** recognized this absence.

"I'd never seen a picture of two women kissing, and I wanted to SEE it," JEB revealed in her book, *Eye to Eye: Portraits of Lesbians*.

So she borrowed a camera, but couldn't find anyone who would pose for her.

"So I held the camera out at arms length and kissed my then lover, Sharon, and took the picture," JEB said. "That was my first lesbian photograph." **(JEB is on the left)**

She began teaching herself the art of photography through a correspondence course, later working in camera shops and for small-town newspapers.

JEB perfected her craft working as a free-lance photographer and contracting with TV stations, theater groups and advertising agencies.

Her photographs have graced the pages of many lesbian, feminist and gay publications, including *Off Our Backs* and *Out*.

She has also published women's calendars and done the photography for several womens' music album covers.

In 1979, JEB published her photographs in her first book, *Eye to Eye: Portraits of Lesbians*. It became the first book ever devoted to photographs of real-life lesbians.

"It was an unbelievable publication at the time," JEB told Ground Zero in a phone interview. "No one would publish it. I had to raise the money myself for publication."

Soon after *"Eye to Eye,"* JEB merged her photographs into a slide show and took to the road for Moonforce Media, a company created in 1974 to move lesbians out into the mainstream.

In 1987, she published her second book, *Making A Way: Lesbians Out Front*, and developed a slide show from the "For Love and For Life" March on Washington.

Recently, JEB has turned her magic eye toward videos.

She created and produced the official video of the 1993 March On Washington, *A Simple Matter of Justice*. It is distributed by Moonforce Media, P. O. Box 2934, Washington DC and shown at Gay and Lesbian events around the country, including the annual women's festivals.

At Rhythm Fest '94, a women's festival held in the mountains of North Carolina, JEB presented her workshop, "Before We Were Chic," which chronicled her lesbian photographs from the 70s and 80s, and powerfully documented the movement of the lesbian culture.

"JEB's works are astounding," said Penny, head office grunt of Rhythm Fest in Atlanta, GA, "I've followed her for years and she's truly amazing."

JEB's photographs have been published in mainstream books such as the Advocate's *Long Road to Freedom*, *Out in America*, and *Uncommon Heroes*, in which she is featured as one of the heroes.

→ → → → → →

Leonardo da Vinci was born in 1452 in Vinci, in the Provence of Tuscany Italy. Because he was the illegitimate son of a Florentine aristocrat and a peasant girl, da Vinci was raised by his grandparents.

His artistic abilities blossomed early. At the age of 14, he caught the attention of painter Andrea del Verrocchio, who made da Vinci his apprentice.

Da Vinci's homosexuality also blossomed early when, ten years later, he was reprimanded for having relations ("godless acts) with a seventeen-year-old model.

In 1482, da Vinci moved to Milan where he painted two of best known works, Madonna of the Rocks and the Last Supper fresco, now being restored.

Throughout his life, da Vinci had several male companions, and there is no evidence of any interest in women or in wooing a woman for a mate.

Da Vinci was a very private man, who constantly wrote in his notebooks and worked on his artistic projects slowly and meticulously. He never finished many of these works. Several of his peers saw this slowness as frittery and wasting time and talent.

Not much of his private life is known, but da Vinci did take on many young men as apprentices with whom he became very attached.Da Vinci became especially attached to an apprentice named Francesco Melzi, who da Vinci later adopted and made an heir.

One particular young man, Caprotti, was with da Vinci for roughly 20 years serving as model and personal companion.

Sigmund Freud became very interested in the personal life of da Vinci, and published a study of his homosexuality called "Leonardo da Vinci and a Memory of His Childhood." Freud believed da Vinci was homosexual and sought several different ways to explain how and why.

Da Vinci died at Cloux, in 1519, with his heir, Francesco Melzi, at his bedside. On his deathbed, da Vinci reprimanded himself for "having offended God and man by his failure to do his duty in is art."

Yet, he left some of the greatest works of art the world has ever known and more than 8,000 pages of personal notes that chronicled the genius of this profound thinker and artist.

Da Vinci has influenced artists, architects, and scientific thinker for centuries, and will continue to influence innovative thinkers well into the next century.

The gay community can take pride in the fact that 500 years ago one of the greatest artists and thinkers of all time shared the same orientation.

Her current video, "Beyond Coming Out: Overcoming Shame," is a humorous but compelling study of the shame lesbians and gay men experience due to heterosexism.

"The video explains the nitty-gritty experience of living daily as a gay person and how we deal with the underlying shame and oppression," JEB said in the interview. "It's this lingering shame that stops us from being our full selves and claiming what we deserve in life."

"Too often we settle for far less than we deserve," she continued, "We would get more if we acted like we deserve it, which we do, rather than let the fear drive our lives."

JEB's photographs will be featured in the book, "A Question of Equality," due to be released this fall. PBS plans to air a documentary of the same name. *A Gay and Lesbian Almanac* by Time-Warner Books is due out this fall containing many of her photographs.

COLORADO GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION
CGRA
PIKES PEAK UNITED RODEO
PPUR

WHAT IS CGRA/PPUR?

The Colorado Gay Rodeo Association is the state organization that promotes the western life style, rodeos and fund raising to promote community functions. There are three Satellite/Chapters in Colorado, which are in Denver, Colorado Spring and Greeley. There is a state board that oversees and writes the bi-laws in conjunction with the 3 organized Satellite/Chapters and there members.

To find out more about CGRA in your area please attend any local meeting. Denver's meetings are held every other thursdays at Charlie's or Ms. C's. They can reached at P.O Box 2558, Denver CO 809201, phone 303-839-8810. The Colorado Springs meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd mondays of each month at 7 P.M. at the Hide & Seek Complex, in the Branding Iron bar, 512 W. Colo Ave., Colo Springs CO 80906, or write to P.O. Box 15504, Colo Springs CO 80935. phone 719-576-2472. Greeley holds their meetings on Sundays for more information call 970-353-5431 or 303-828-3125.

Nation wide there are 25 rodeos currently be held, this also includes one Canadian rodeo held in Calgary. This year may see new rodeos added at the International Gay Rodeo Association 1995 Convention being held in Chicago July 29-30th.

PPUR HISTORY

The Pikes Peak United Rodeo(PPUR) began in 1991.. It was formerly known as Pikes Unit Rodeo. The Reason it was a unit rodeo was because Colo Springs was only holding a rodeo performance on Saturday and the Sunday performance was being held in Phoenix. Phoenix backed out of the Sunday performance, so the PPUR rodeo board found themselves putting on a 2 day full blown rodeo in April of 1991 with no advance warning. The rodeo board then scrambled to put together livestock, buckle awards, equipment and ever thing that is needed to put on a full scale rodeo. That was the first annual PPUR Rodeo. Six months later the same rodeo board began putting on the second annual PPUR full scale rodeo in September. This year will be the 5th Annual Pikes Peak United Rodeo and looking forward to many more..

PPUR ORGANIZATION

The rodeo board has officers just like any corporation. These officers are all volunteers. The board positions consist of President Vice President, Treasury, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, PR/Fund raising, Membership Chairperson and Representatives to Denver and Greeley Meetings. These board Members are elected each year in December and begin serving in January. If you are Interested in volunteering some time, please contact PPUR.

LOOKING FOR VETERINARIAN SERVICES FOR RODEO CONTACT PPUR 719-576-2472 OR 719-635-9011

EQUALITY

The Men & Woman Riders Compete on the same Levels. They are equal competitors in all events. Rodeo events consist of barrel Racing Flag Racing, Wild Drag Race, Goat Dressing, Wild Steer Riding, Chute Dogging, Team Roping, Bareback Bronc, Calf Roping on Foot, Pole Bending, Mounted Break Away and Steer Decorating. All events are awarded Buckles or ribbons and prize money for the best in there events. This years rodeo will be September 23rd and 24th, 1995 at Penrose Stadium, 1045 W. Rio Grande. Tickets are $10.00 a day per person. For more information on sponsor ship programs such as advertising, chute banners, arena banners, purse money sponsor, and Arena sponsor you can write to CGRA/PPUR, P.O. BOX 15504, Colorado Spring CO. 80935 or phone 719-576-2472 or 719-635-9011. We will be glad to send you or your organization flyers with further information.

JULY UPCOMING EVENTS

4th JULY 4th HOLIDAY

10th Dinner 5:30 P.M. cost $3.50
Board Meeting 6:30 P.M.
General Membership meeting at 7 P.M. All meetings held in The Branding Iron (in the Hide N Seek Complex)

15th & 16th
Rocky Mtn. Regional Rodeo (RMRR)
Denver, Coal Creek Arena
gate open 9 A.M.

22nd The Bubbling Brown Sugar Show
The Branding Iron in H & S
10:30 P.M. & 11:30 P.M.

24th Board Meeting 7 P.M.
in The Branding Iron

LET'S RODEO

REMAINING 95 RODEO SCHEDULE

Canadian Rockies Int'l Rodeo
CALGARY Jun 30-Jul 2
Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo
DENVER July 14-16
North Star Regional Rodeo
ST. PAUL, MN July 21-23
11th Annual IGRA Convention
CHICAGO July 27-30
Greater Motown Int'l Rodeo
DETROIT Aug 4-6
Great Plains Regional Rodeo
WICHITA Aug 11-13
Greater Northwest Int'l Rodeo
SEATTLE Aug 11-13
Windy City Gay Rodeo
CHICAGO Aug 25-27
Great Plains Regional Rodeo
KANSAS CITY Sept 1-3
Zia Regional Rodeo
ALBUQUERQUE Sept 1-3
Pikes Peak United Rodeo
COLO SPRINGS Sept 22-24
San Diego Rodeo
SAN DIEGO Sept 22-24
Atlantic Stampede Rodeo
WASHINGTON Sept 29-0ct 1
9th Annual IGRA Finals Rodeo
DENVER Oct 19-22

CGRA
PIKES PEAK
UNITED RODEO
COLORADO SPRINGS
SATELLITE CHAPTER

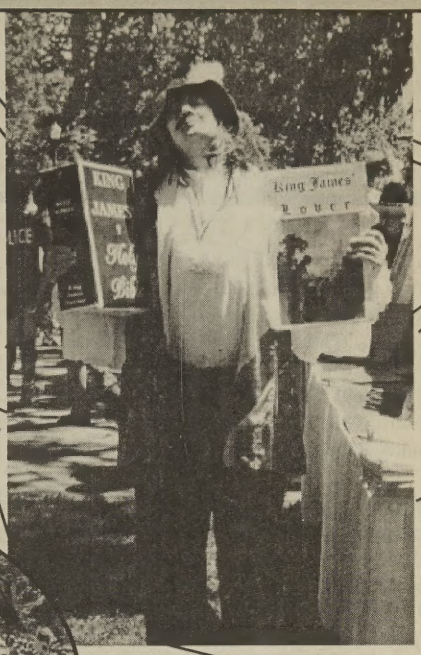
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME:_____
ADDRESS:_____
CITY: _____
STATE_____ ZIP_____

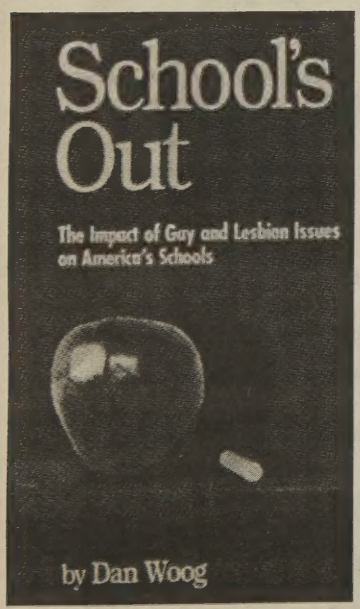
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE
ARE $30.00 A YEAR
Make checks payable
TO: CGRA/PPUR, BOX 15504
COLO SPRINGS CO 80935
Please list any special volunteer talents you
would like to help out with.

SIGNATURE_____
DATE: _____

CELEBRATING PRIDE 1995!



GROUND ZERO MARCHES



A Book Review by
Lyn Boudreau

Editor's Note: Ground Zero member and Connecticutt resident, Dan Woog, has recently published this extensive study. Lyn Boudreau lightly reviews it here. It is indeed destined to be the resource book on the subject.

I began reading Dan Woog's book *School's Out*, at the beginning of my summer break from teaching, and at first (for far too long) I didn't 'get' the title, as he intended it. I kept reading it as a wonderful proclamatory statement about MY VACATION, much like: "Summer's here ... Yahoo!" (I can, indeed, be quite slow...). But as I read on, I discovered the meaning and appropriateness of his title as it was intended. Woog has succeeded in writing a book for and about all folks (educator or not) interested in the growing phenonomen of today's schools becoming more OUT than ever. Of course, schools themselves can't be either gay or lesbian (although they may adopt other orientations as their 'hallmark'...pun intended). Schools are made up of people; and it is on scores upon scoress of interviews with the people involved in American education today-that Woog's book is based.

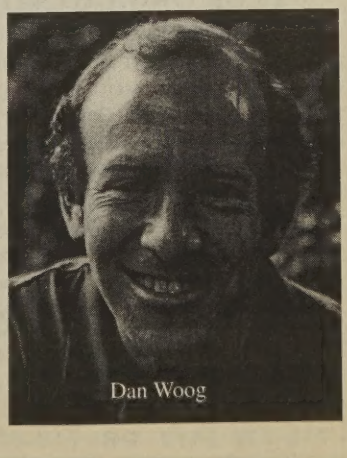
School's Out is an extensive compilation of personal interviews with people populating U.S. schools in THE 90's—from teachers to librarians, from students to nurses.from administrators tounion representatives, and from very OUT gays and/or lesbians to those still very much IN the closet. Woog divides these interviews into 3 main sections: People, Places, and Programs. Within each, he presents several narratives which illustrate the latest movements in education regarding homosexual issues.

Woog seems inexhaustive in pursuit of finding stories that reflect every aspect of the current state of gay and lesbian concems. Readers will find stories of pathos and pain, of struggle and paranoia, of 'keeping on' against all odds and sometimes backing down, and of tremendous courage, honesty, and liberating freedom. Success stories abound. I was most impressed by these for 3 reasons: one, because they came from every part of the country; two, because I sometimes feel isolated in the educational system of Southern Colorado; and three, because they filled me with such hope for the next generation of both kids and educators!

The stories that tore at my heart were those about the kids who have been wounded—the students whose lives had been so hard, burdensome and, often, frightening because they had to face their already awkward adolescence with the added weight of being a gay or lesbian youth. Their tales of ostracism, loneliness, and pain moved me, As I read I think I 'got it' in a new way that WE, as gay and/or lesbian educators, need to really begin to THINK ABOUT THESE KIDS, AND THEIR LIVES A WHOLE LOT MORE as we make that choice to be IN or OUT in our schools. Many of the book's heros did just that. They came OUT, becoming not only role-models of courage and rays of hope for their students; but liberated teachers whose lives could finally be free of an energy-draining lie.

I loved this quote by John Anderson, Connecticut's first openly gay teacher, about whether or not teachers should leave the closet: "Absolutely. We're educators. We're in the business of educating children. To me that means bringing them to knowledge ... If we're in the closet we're cheating gay kids ... because they look around for a way to be who they are in school and it ain't there ... We need to be out. That doesn't mean every gay teacher needs to be a counselor to gay kids. But it does mean kids need to know, 'He's gay', or'She's gay'—just like we can see, 'He's black, she's Asian,' or whatever. It's part of the rich diversity of the culture we live in, and right now it's being denied to gay and lesbian students."

There are many more 'choice' quotes—pearls of wisdom—from the pages of *School's Out*. There are, also, many more things I could highlight about the extensive treatment Woog gives to what is WORKING in schools across America. But, I do not want to be that extensive here. After all, it is my VACATION, and *Schools Out* for me for a while.... So, I'll close with a brief recommendation for Dan Woog's book---Read *School's Out* before School's Back In! *(Woog, Dan, School's Out, Alyson Press: Boston, 1995).*



Dan Woog

Racism and the Religious Right

by Loretta Ross *(reprinted from the Monitor March 1995)*

Almost everyone knows what the religious right preaches – family values, God's law is supreme, abortion is murder, homosexuality is chosen behavior, Christianity is the only true religion, censorship is necessary, the Arts shouldn't be funded by tax dollars, and on and on. We know this because, over the past decade, we have seen the tremendous power the religious right wields. We have seen them win elections on school boards, in local governments, and in state legislatures. They propelled a good number of the Republicans into Congress. People for the American Way reports that 60% of religious right candidates won offices in the 1994 elections.

We know all of this because we read the newspapers and news magazines, watch TV, and listen to talk radio. We know this because the press loves to report the religious right. What we haven't seen reported by the press, or even widely discussed in progressive circles, is the racism inherent in their agenda. Because the religious right successfully obscures its racial themes, it has significant potential to draw into its ranks people of faith, including people of color, who do not know how racism is used as a weapon by the religious right. It is necessary, then, to decouple their true beliefs from the imagery and religiosity that they evoke.

The religious right doesn't use racial slurs to promote its agenda. Instead, it buries its bigotry beneath the familiar rhetoric of family values. This furtive racism is particularly oblique because the religious right appears to focus on other issues rather than race. Racism so carefully disguised can be difficult for most Americans to identify and challenge.

Certainly, not everyone who identifies with the religious right is racist. Most would defiantly deny any racial interpretation of their agenda. Particularly since they see themselves as a new civil rights movement and victims of "religious bigotry." They think they are a spiritual renewal movement, using, as Bill Moyers said, "In your face Christianity."

Their use of civil rights imagery is particularly cynical. They want to abolish many of the gains of the civil rights movement while cloaking themselves in its moral mantle. To do so, they had to redefine themselves and reinvent words to commit subtle language coups- School segregation became "freedom of choice" and "school vouchers." Mandated school prayer became "freedom of religion." Opposition to gay and lesbian rights became "No Special Rights." Concepts like "color blindness" and "equal opportunity" are turned on their heads to be redeployed into attacks on all social justice efforts. A veneer of religious sanctimony is used to confer legitimacy on many bigoted ideas. As Florida Klan leader John Baumgardner said two weeks after the election, "Klan strength is measured by the power in the popular support of the ideas, not necessarily the number of members of the group."

In a recent newspaper article, Lani Guinier, rejected Dept. of Justice nominee of the Clinton Administration, describes the code words whites now have for blacks: "minority, urban, criminal, crime rate, social programs, inner city, qualified candidate, welfare mother." The words for whites are "suburban, Republican, conservative."

The Christian Coalition, along with other conservatives, has led a mean-spirited attack on the "welfare state" without mentioning race, but generating strong hostility towards African Americans and Latinos. Tax revolts have become vehicles for racist fears. In the world according to Newt, Americans would rather not feed hungry children if it means the involvement of the federal goventment. Is it possible that they care less about poor children because they think the children being fed are Black or Latino?

Public Education Under Siege

Nowhere is this attack clearer than in the battle in the public school system. Many schools are attempting to meet the challenge of dealing with the diversity of American society through programs on multiculturalism, as well as a multitude of other problems facing young people such as drugs, violence, AIDS, and teen pregnancy. Educators must strive to succeed in a shrinking economy that can't provide sufficient jobs for the young people they teach.

Yet the religious right hammers at public education, accusing it of being anti-religion and poisoning the minds of the young with dangerous liberal thoughts. Rather than help the schools deal with the realities of today's world, the religious right disingenously offers school prayer as a panacea. At the same time, they want school vouchers so that they can send their children to private religious schools presumably free of the taints of public schools. They have a national network of religious schools for which they want government support. Kill the free breakfast program but give us our vouchers?

Racism explains this seeming contradiction. Public schools have made strides not only towards equalizing educational opportunities for children; they have also led to suburban integration. In pursuit of quality education for their children, many people of color desegegated all-white neighborhoods, moving the civil rights frontline from the inner city into suburbia. Public schools have also provided people of color economic opportunities leading to greater integration of the American workforce. But the particular flashpoint for many on the religious right is that public schools allow children of many races to interact and indulge in – gasp! interracial dating.

Last year, one high school principal in Wedowee, Alabama was so incensed by the thought of interracial couples that he cancelled the high school prom. Calling himself a deeply religious man, Hulond Humphries didn't believe that race-mixing was Biblically proper. He sparked a massive controversy that eventually led to the torching of the high school and rallies by the Ku Klux Klan. Many of the white parents now want a private school to replace the one that was arsoned. They'll probably ask for school vouchers. The black kids will go to schools in trailors.

Money Matters

Ralph Reed, director of the Christian Coalition, promised in 1993 that the religious right would "cast a wider net" and move beyond single-issue politics to expand to include economic as well as moral issues to attract more people to the Coalition's grassroots efforts. He promised to abandon the stealth candidate strategy which was initially proposed in 1986 by the Coalition on Revival to lay the groundwork for Pat Robertson's 1988 presidential bid. The stealth routine became a public relations liability when candidates couldn't fly low enough under the radar and their tactics were exposed. Large numbers of voters mobilized to oppose them.

By losing the stealth rhetoric and attaching their wagon to "bread and butter" issues, the religious right has had success in imposing their vision on America. They now control Republican party machinery in 20 states.

The religious right wants federal intervention on moral matters, but not economic ones. Jobs are not mentioned once in the Contract With America. They want the government to stop all abortions, maintain discrimination against people of color and gays and lesbians, censor arts and culture, and punish people for behavior they consider immoral, such as welfare mothers. Of course, they don't describe their agenda so explicitly, but religious right proposals to write a Human Life Amendment into the Constitution or mandate school prayer are nothing but attempts to legislate morality. They promote pitiless political terrorism designed to make people's lives miserable, like ending support for the homeless or defunding public services. It's almost as if they believe that "if you can't covert them, control them."

At the same time, this focus on morality ignores a vanishing American industrial base that can't provide enough jobs for people. They cleverly tap into the national anxiety created by the fact that many U.S. companies no longer depend on American labor. This trend previously affected mostly blue collar and agricultural workers, but now it is pinching the middle class. A kind of social Darwinism by the religious right shifts the blame to people's behavior, rather than on the economy: individuals are irresponsible, not our economic institutions. Those that are suffering deserve their fate and efforts to help them weaken their moral character. They tap into racism so subtle it's almost never noticed by the general public. They seem not to recognize that poor people are not undeserving; they are underserved.

White Supremacist praying at Randy Weaver siege 1992
Courtesy of Coalition for Human Dignity

When they say they want less government, they really mean that they want businesses to have the freedom to do whatever they choose, mostly exploit the workforce and pollute the environment without hindrance. They are turning out the foot soldiers in the battle against health care reform, affirmative action, minority contracting, pay equity, raising the minimum wage, and government regulation of industry. They want to support existing economic arrangements that effectively maintain the unequal relationships between rich and poor, black and white, men and women.

It is clear that one of the goals of the religious right is to accelerate the destruction of the tax base of the inner cities, although it is never explicitly stated as such. Throughout the country, there are several varieties of anti-taxation measures on state and local ballots that seek to reduce existing taxes, proscribe taxes from being spent on selected social programs, or require that tax increases be put to a public vote requiring a two-thirds majority. These tactics result in inadequate public funding to pay for services such as schools, fire protection, financial aid programs, and libraries. Yet funding for anti-crime programs are not only protected, but increased.

But racism is not the only secret prejudice of the religious right. Anti-Semitism also seeps out. Pat Robertson book, The New World Order, rehashed the old claim that secretive cabals of bankers (mostly Jewish) threaten the sovreignty of the United States in a conspiracy to manage the world economy. Such anti-Semitism is not singular. Pete Peters, a Christian Identity minister, has bridged the gap between Identity and more mainstream conservative Christian groups. According to the Institute for First Amendment Studies, Peters can be seen nationally on the Keystone Inspiration Network which also carries Pat Robertson's 700 Club. It is available in about 120 cities. Peters wrote The Real Hate Grow to describe Jews as manipulating the government to attack Christians.

Demanding Accountability

How can the religious right get away with barely subliminal racism? After all, they have made considerable inroads using black surrogates like Alan Keyes and Mildred Jefferson to push their agenda. But in the changing face of racism in the 1990s, many advocates of racist policies are not white. Racism has endured because of the many lies and stereotypes of African Americans: that they're lazy, indisposed to work, prefer to live off welfare and sell drugs, are a blemish to the American public face. What is different about the racism of the 1990s is that many of its victims now themselves believe the hype.

The influence of the religious right is not only on conservatives, but crosses the political spectrum. For example, Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry has called for the implantation of Norplant, a 5-year contraceptive, into teen mothers on welfare, probably not realizing that David Duke introduced this same legislation in Louisiana in 1991. There is Ward Connerly, a black member of the Board of Regents of the University of California, who wants to end affirmative action, a campaign promoted by white supremacists for the past 25 years.

The growing number of people of color who don't know that they echo white supremacist ideas, maybe for different reasons, is alarming.

In December 1994, the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, sponsored a conference inBaltimore to encourage anti-welfare sentiments among African Americans. Most of the 300 participants wanted total abolition of welfare, claiming that it creates irresponsibility and hopelessness. "We have two generations that haven't tried," asserted Star Parker, herself a former welfare recipient and now a board member of the Black Political Action Committee formed to help elect more conservative African Americans to office. "It's gotten to the point where their [welfare recipients'] abilities lag so far behind that one more generation of this and we'll have a pennanent underclass of people who can't mobilize themselves."

Does the fact that some people of color now believe the stereotypes about themselves mean that the stereotypes are not racist? How can the ideas of the white supremacists so infect the religious right that this ideological vandalism ends up in the mainstream of our society, instead of the margins where it belongs? While David Duke was being charming and persuasive in the 1970s when talking about a new Klan, few thought that his diatribes on welfare, crime, illegal immigrants and affirmative action would become the national policies of the 1990s. A few years ago, denying assistance to feed and educate children would have been seen as barbaric, but now the reactionary has become mainstream.

In a sense, the religious right is doing the work of organized racist groups.It is taking advantage of the sanitized white supremacist strategy to talk about race-laden issues in apparently race-neutral language and avoiding any overt expression of racism. This tactic has succeeded to such an extent that most white Americans, not simply white supremacists, believe that as long as the word race is not mentioned, racism does not exist.

The one thing the religious right fears is exposure of its racism because overwhelming black voter turnout can thwart their political ambitions, as in the Ollie North race in Virginia. It is critical that those who care about the future of America continuously expose the racism of the religious right. They should not be allowed to scapegoat people for genuine social grievances and not offer any positive solutions to these problems, but rather insist on blaming the victims. To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson: church and state don't mix.

Loretta Ross is Program Research Director for the Center for Democratic Renewal. This article first appeared in C.D.R.'s publication *The Monitor* and is reprinted here with permission. For information, write C.D.R. at P.O. Box 50469, Atlanta, GA. 30302-0469. Tel. (404) 221-0025

THE "H" IS SILENT

Mainstream media pros seem to have a problem with the "H" words HOMOPHOBIA and HETEROSEXISM. Popular columnists, for instance, seem to do their damndest to avoid using either. No matter how appropriate and accurate these terms might be, journalists skirt all around them, exclusively using less-specific references like "prejudice" or "intolerance."

A recent case in point is Ann Landers' column for June 15, 1995. In that column, Landers printed a letter from a "52-year-old gay father" who sought her advice. The man explained: "My entire family knows I am gay. My companion, Jason, and I live near my children, and they often come home for dinner . . . . My oldest son is getting married soon. He asked if I would be able to contribute something toward the cost of the wedding . . . . I agreed . . . . A week later, my son told me he did not want me to bring Jason to the wedding because some of his friends are not as understanding as he is, and he doesn't want to be embarrassed on his wedding day."

The gay father also pointed out that "his ex-wife and her boyfriend will be attending the wedding." "I find this double standard insulting," he wrote. He then sincerely asked Landers what he should do, and concluded: "Any help you can give would be appreciated."

Landers replied: "Too bad your son is such a wimp, but it sounds to me that he's being pressured by his fiancee. Leave the decision to Jason. If he is a first-rate fellow, he will encourage you to attend the wedding without him . . . .When all the unpleasantness is over, you will be glad you took the high road."

Since when is ignoring homophobia — and failing to challenge heterosexism — a matter of "taking the high road?"

And while Landers description of this man's son as a "wimp" might be admirable, she conveniently avoids describing his behavior (or anyone else's) as HOMOPHOBIC. She does not acknowledge the obvious HETEROSEXISM of the "double standard" described by the letter writer.

Moreover, it is exceedingly insulting for Landers to suggest that "first-rate fellows" are gay men who encourage their partners to pretend they do not exist. But such an insult is, unfortunately, a classic "Landers Slander."

It seems that Ann Landers digs herself into a deeper hole every time she addresses a lesbian, gay or bisexual issue. In 1991, she told a mother that her daughter's domestic partner had no right to be included in a family photograph. In 1992, Landers decided to hold a postcard poll on whether or not lesbians and gays are miserable sinners. That same year, she also defamed bisexuals and spread misinformation about AIDS. "Since AIDS has reared its ugly head, I would not advise any woman to continue in a relationship with a man who has sex with another male," she told the lover of a bisexual man. In 1994, Landers advised her vast readership to keep information about homosexuality away from lesbian, gay and questioning children: "I'm not about to tell a 13-year-old that he or she may be homosexual," Landers reasoned, "Thirteen is too early to tell for certain."

This sad chronology could go on . . . and on.

** Clearly, this advice columnist is in desperate need of some good advice herself. Send plenty of it to Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, IL 60611-0562. You might also ask Landers to live up to the higher standards set by her own sister — and advice column competitor — Abigail Van Buren ("Dear Abby"); Van Buren recently apologized for offering homophobic advice and she publicly stated her commitment to promoting "understanding and acceptance of gays and lesbians."

A SERIOUS COMIC

In the latest issue of "ShadowHawk," published by Image Comics, the superhero — an African American crime fighter — dies of AIDS. The United Press International (UPI) and Associated Press (AP) wire services quickly picked up on the story and — according to the publisher — the comic book has been "thrown into the media buzz lines with a furry."

The superhero's sexual orientation (if any) is not emphasized in Issue #18, though it certainly appears that he is neither gay nor bisexual. A press release announcing the publication lays out the issue's focal point: "The earth's deadliest villain doesn't always come after you with a knife or a gun. Sometimes it comes without warning. Without reason. Without remorse. Evil without a cure. That villain is AIDS."

Early in the series, the comic book's villainous characters injected ShadowHawk with HIV. The superhero's fight against AIDS has been a part of the plot ever since. "Why did it have to be me?," ShadowHawk asks in one panel, "I wasn't at risk . . . I don't DESERVE this!" The next panel carries a reply: "Who does?"

According to Jim Valentino — the comic book's writer/artist/creator (and Image Comics co-founder) — "ShadowHawk" represents a unique effort at AIDS education and prevention. "As a father, I am concerned with the future of not only my children, but the future of all children to come," Valentino says. "I want as many people as can be to be aware of AIDS and to join in the fight against it. You don't need super powers to fight AIDS, you just need to fight."

"ShadowHawk" has supplemented the fictional storyline with factual AIDS/HIV information. While that information has tended towards pedantry — and an overemphasis on abstinence — the basic message is intended to educate, sensitize and empower readers. "A lot of kids will be exposed to the message, maybe before they are exposed to the AIDS virus," said Randy Chalenor, a spokesperson for Image Comics.

"ShadowHawk's" preachy tone — and graphic, vigilante politics — won't appeal to all readers. But, the series undoubtedly appeals to a unique readership that might not be accessible through other media.

According to John Miller, associate editor of "Comics Buyer's Guide," most comic book readers are 12- to 14-year-old boys. Image Comics ranks a very respectable third amongst comic book companies in the U.S. and Canada, holding a 17 percent share of the market.

Each issue of the comic book contains several letters from readers. While praised by many, "ShadowHawk" has also elicited some all-too-common complaints. For example, in Issue # 11, a letter writer whines about the comic book's "political correctness" and "becoming just another part of the AIDS bandwagon." The disgruntled reader asks: "With what reasoning would you give ShadowHawk HIV when guns, car accidents, drugs, alcohol, and smoking each kill many more people and create many more tragedies each year than AIDS does? It is my hope that you can recognize the error of involving ShadowHawk's plot with your own political beliefs, just as a newspaper editor would recognize the error of involving a report with his own political beliefs. Such ideas are best left in editorials."

Unfortunately, some readers also seem to have "misread" the author's intent, at least as far as debunking the "innocent victim" myth. Wrote one fan, also in Issue #11: "No, you won't get any criticism from this corner . . . I think it makes for a more sympathetic character to have him be the one who was not given AIDS through his own fault but, rather, the fault of evil drug dealers. He wasn't a drug user. He didn't practice a homosexual lifestyle. He didn't have unprotected sex." To which Jim Valentino replied: "We have sympathy for anyone suffering from this . . . disease. ANYONE. No one 'deserves' AIDS. No one." The comic book's creator has said that — unlike Superman — ShadowHawk will not rise from the grave. Valentino explained this decision as a reflection of the seriousness of AIDS, which can't simply be "shaken off." However, the publisher has announced plans for "The New ShadowHawk." The anticipated series will feature a new character taking the place of the title role's predecessor.

Given this publisher's ground-breaking approach to social issues, perhaps Image Comics might also consider a series with affirmative — and clearly portrayed — lesbian, gay or bisexual title characters. Such media could be invaluable in the fight against another deadly disease — homophobia.

STRONG KOFY

James Gabbert — the recently-out gay media mogul — decided to do what (remarkably) no broadcaster in the United States has yet to do . . . televise live coverage of a Pride Parade. Gabbert announced that his KOFY-TV station would cover the 25th Annual San Francisco Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Parade and Pride Celebration (June 18, 1995).

Since he began airing ads for the broadcast, Gabbert reported receiving a number of boycott — and death — threats. Hundreds of homophobic callers threatened to put pressure on KOFY advertisers, especially those that might advertise during the "demonic" broadcast.

Gabbert rejected the threats, however. A week before the scheduled broadcast, he told the press: "This is not just a gay event, it's an event for all of San Francisco. I thought it would be a really neat thing to broadcast it, and I still do. We're going to do it."

** Direct feedback to James Gabbert, Owner and President, KOFY-TV, 2500 Marin Street, San Francisco, CA 94124, tel. 415-821-2020.

* **Challenging Classroom Censors** . . . The National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) has launched a special program for "Countering Censorship In The Schools." To support the work of NCAC in defense of the rights to read, to teach and to learn, one can become an "NCAC Friend." For a modest donation, "Friends" receive NCAC's invaluable newsletter — "Censorship News" — five times a year, along with other timely information. For details on how to get involved, contact the National Coalition Against Censorship, 275 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10001, tel. 212-807-NCAC, fax 212-807-6245.

* **Because Knowledge Is Power** . . . The non-profit DataCenter supports "research dedicated to progressive social change." The DataCenter collects information from over 500 periodicals and operates a clipping service, public-interest library, and customized research program. Thanks to a recent grant, the Center can now offer its information services at subsidized rates to "non-profit -groups that are defending freedom of expression.

HIV POSITIVE?

Need a CARING Capable Pharmacy? We accept assignment from insurance companies.

We guarantee to match or beat the lowest prices on medications.

Your personal claims representative will handle all the paperwork and insurance billings.

Serving the Aids Community since 1982. Fast, efficient, no cost delivery.

Let us handle the hassle and allow you to concentrate on other matters.

COLORADO HEALTH NETWORK
approved and recommended.

Colorado Pharmacy

(303) 863-7644
701 E. Colfax #102
Denver, Colordo 80203
1-800-PWA-DRUG (792-3784)

The Colorado Marriage Rights Project meets in Colorado Springs

by JONATHAN KELLEY, Equality Colorado

Never underestimate the swiftness or urgency with which the radical right will react to anything they perceive as a gain for the lesbian and gay civil rights movement.

10 Percent devoted it's May/June '95 issue (including this photo) to the subject of Gay Marriage.

In 1993 the Hawaii State Supreme Court heard an appeal from three same-sex couples who had sought marriage licenses, only to be denied. It found that the gender rules in marriage laws probably violated the state's constitutional prohibitions against gender-based discrimination. The case was remanded back to trial court, where the state must show that their reasons for discrimination are strong enough to withstand the scrutiny of the Constitution.

Chances are, the state will fail.

But not if the right has anything to say about it.

•FACT In Hawaii, Colorado, and the rest of the United States, marriage is a civil union as far as the state is concerned.

The religious ceremonies which may or may not accompany a wedding are private choices left up to the couples involved. A church or denomination would have no obligation to perform a ceremony for same-sex couples, just as they don't have to marry couples who are not part of their denomination. A church which is against interracial marriages is free to deny a ceremony to a mixed-race couple. The state cannot force any religion to do that. That's called freedom of religion.

It should follow, then, that a specific religion should not force the state to deny civil recognition to same-sex couples. Separation of church and state is a two-sided coin.

Whenever same-sex marriages are legalized in one state, the issue of whether or not those marriages will be recognized in other states will affect us all. Because the US Constitution requires that each state give "full faith and credit" to the laws and acts of all other states, it would seem that same-sex marriages performed in Hawaii or elsewhere would have to be recognized in every other state.

Nothing regarding this issue, however, will be as simple as that. Already, bills in the Utah, Alaska, and South Dakota legislatures were introduced to try to deny same-sex married couples any legal standing in those states. The bills passed in both Utah and Alaska, and was defeated by only one vote in the South Dakota Senate. No matter what, this will be a battle.

That's why Colorado needs to get organized now. The Colorado Marriage Rights Project is a coalition of concerned groups and individuals around the state who are organizing now to protect the civil rights of same-sex couples. Among the groups who are working with the Project are Equality Colorado, Ground Zero, Simple Justice, and La Guia.

Marriage should not be a club that only certain couples have access to. The laws of Colorado are discriminatory toward many loving, committed couples. It's important that *everyone* receive equal protection under the law .

Learn more about what you can do in the struggle for equal marriage rights for same-sex couples: Come to a community forum sponsored by the Colorado Marriage Rights Project.

July 11
7:30 p.m.
The Pride Center
125 N. Parkside
Colorado Springs

Or call Equality Colorado at (303) 839-5540 or Ground Zero at (719) 635-6068

CULT ACTIVITY INCREASES AS MILLENIUM NEARS END

By MAGGIE FOX

LONDON (Reuter) - Is it the approaching millenium? The Oklahoma City bombing and gas attacks in Japan, blamed by some on religious cults, are stirring fears that as the year 2000 draws near apocalypse cults will become more extreme.

Thousands of groups preach that the world is coming to an end, for many the millennium is literally the deadline, and some of them, nervous about Armageddon, may be tempted to fulfil their own apocalyptic prophecies, cult experts say.

Police and security officials who watch the more radical groups point to instances where cult leaders have already tried to precipitate their own apocalypse.

In 1993, David Koresh, self-proclaimed Son of God, gathered his Branch Davidian followers in a compound in Waco, Texas, and sent 80 men, women and children to eternity in a fiery shoot-out with government agents.

Doomsday prophet Luc Jouret, head of the Renewed Order of the Solar Temple, was blamed for the deaths last year of 53 of his followers in Switzerland and Canada.

Jim Jones led 913 followers into the Guyana jungle and persuaded them to commit mass suicide by drinking cyanide-laden Kool-Aid in 1978. He told them they were going to heaven.

Although the perpetrators and motive for the Oklahoma attack are still unclear the blast initially focused some speculation on the Koresh cult. The blast came on the anniversary of the government raid on Koresh's compound and some experts said his followers may have been seeking revenge.

``Theoretically it could be revenge, or as a way of working out the prophecies that Koresh left that there would be chaos,'' said Michelle Gosling of the London-based Cult Information Center.

Gosling said some groups did try to precipitate events that would fulfil predictions that the end is nigh.

``They may see themselves under threat from the world,'' she said. ``Or they may bring about catastrophe to focus people's attention on what they see as the truth.''

Religion expert Eileen Barker of the London School of Economics said outside factors often caused radical groups to strike out against the world.

``People have been pushed by outside society into behaving badly,'' she said. ``They feel pressure to go underground.''

Groups likely to act violently, Barker said, had charismatic leaders who could not be questioned or criticized.

Jones and Koresh were examples of this, she said. Both were subject to government probes and felt under threat.

In Japan, members of the quasi-Buddhist Aum Shinrikyo sect linked to last month's sarin nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway, say they are being victimized by the government. They deny the attack in which 11 people died and 5,000 were injured.

Both Barker and Gosling said such a group, whose elusive leader Shoko Asahara preaches that the world will end in 1997, is a prime candidate for striking back at a society it sees as wicked.

``I would hazard a guess ... that by carrying out a dreadful act like a gas attack they would be able to say ``our prophecies are true and the only way of you surviving is by joining the group','' Gosling said.

THREE JULY EVENTS

Bob Bernstein Booksigning
Chinook Book Store
3pm July 8 **(See P. 4)**

Armistead Maupin
at
The Pride Center
8pm July 8 **(See P. 1)**

The Colorado Marriage Project Coalition Town Meeting
7:30pm July 11 (See Above)
The Pride Center

Ground Zero's Volunteer Sheet

Ground zero is an all volunteer non-profit organization. To survive we need and accept all help that is offered. There are many different volunteer positons available and no experience is necessary to participate... We believe your volunteer experience at Ground Zero will be self-fulfilling and beneficial to the community. Thank you for your support

Please print and fill in all information, Thank You.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: ( )_____
When is the best time to contact you?_____

Please be specific in what days and times you are available to volunteer

_____
_____
_____

Below is a list of areas where there is an ongoing need for volunteers. Please circle any that you would like to become involved with.

Office Aid	Fundraiser	Information Distributor
Journalists	Telemarketer	Grant Writer
Word Processor	Media	Data Entry

If there are other areas of interest, or you have any qualifications of skills that you would like to offer please explain in this section.

_____
_____
_____
_____

GROUND ZERO SUSTAINING MEMBER
YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE
GROUND ZERO IS A 501- C3 ORGANIZATION

YES! COUNT ME IN AS A SUPPORTER OF GROUND ZERO IN THE STRUGGLE FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANGENDERED EQUALITY

I, WE PLEDGE OUR ❑ MONTHLY ❑ QUARTERLY ❑ SEMI-ANNUAL

NAME_____
ADDRESS_____
_____
PHONE #_____HOME
_____WORK

❑ I WILL PAY BY CHECK; PLEASE SEND ME A REMINDER NOTICE.

PLEASE BILL MY: ❑ MASTER-CARD ❑ VISA
CARD NUMBER _____EXP. DATE_____
SIGNATURE_____

❑ I CANNOT MAKE A REGULAR PLEDGE, BUT I CAN MAKE A ONE TIME DONATION OF $_____

Amount Pledged for each designated period $_____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT,

PLEASE RETURN THIS CARD TO: GROUND ZERO
P.O.BOX 1982
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80901

GROUND ZERO has moved into the new PRIDE CENTER to better serve the community. Your VOLUNTEERISM and HELP in financial contributions is needed and sought.

You'll find us at 125 N. Parkside

S-CAP UPDATE

Everyone is urged to contact their political representatives regarding the Reauthorization of the Ryan White CARR Act.

The Ryan White CARR Act continues to be a concern within the HIV community across the nation. The Senate bill continues to be held up in committee awaiting the 61 cosponsors as requested by Senator Doyle. To date 59 senators have signed on including Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. Senator Hank Brown of Colorado has not signed on his support.

Everyone is urged to contact Senator Browns' office requesting that he take action immediately to support this Act.

The Ryan White CARE Act brings more than 6 million dollars into the state to directly assist people living with HIV/AIDS. More than 10,000 Coloradans have been reported with HIV since testing began in the mid 1980s. Currently funding directly supports thousands of infected individuals throughout Colorado via medical and dental care, case management, support services, prescriptions, home health care, Hospice support and more. In Southern Colorado these funds assist hundreds of our friends and neighbors through the following agencies: Pikes Peak Hospice, S.E.T. of Colorado Springs, El Paso County Department of Public Health and Environment, Memorial Hospital Cancer Center, The Visiting Nurses Association and the Southern Colorado AIDS Project.

Additionally, more than a dozen individuals locally are receiving assistance through a Insurance Program established by the Governors' AIDS Council and funded by Ryan White. Also numerous individuals in southern Colorado receive their medical prescription through a drug assistance program funded by the CARE Act.

A House version of the bill has also been introduced. We encourage everyone to contact their representative and urge then to support this vital ACT.

July 8 Garage Sale Benefits Local Quilt Project

The annual SCAP Garage Sale scheduled for July 8 will directly benefit the Local Quilt Project in bringing a portion of the National AIDS Quilt to Colorado Springs in May 1996. The Garage Sale is scheduled from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. and will be located on the corner of Cascade and Moreno (around the corner from SCAP). Donations can be dropped off to SCAP (Clothing is not being requested at this time). If you are interested in helping please call the SCAP office at 578-9092.

AIDS Awareness Month Planning Committee Seeks Volunteers

People interested in assisting with AIDS Awareness Month activities scheduled for October are asked to call Tin at SCAP 578-9092. Currently a number of programs are being planned. The next meeting of this working group is July 11 5:30 p.m.

SCAP Extends hours of operations

To better meet the needs of clients and their families, SCAP will be remaining open until 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday evenings. A case manager will also be available during these times.

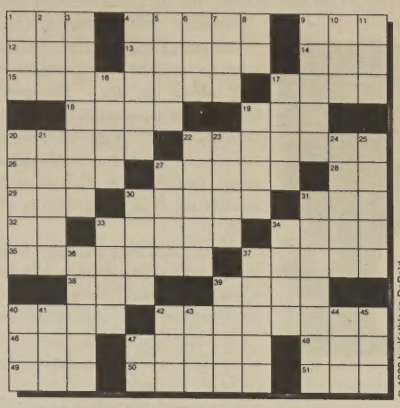
Open House Scheduled for July

Everyone is invited to attend an Open House at SCAP July 21 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. The open house is being held to give everyone the opportunity to visit the expanded facility which now includes a fully stocked food bank and more!!!! Thanks to everyone who has helped make this happen. Mark your calendars!!!

The Crossword below is published with the gracious approval of Kathleen DeBold. It may be found in her book *WORD GAYMES: 101 puzzles with lesbian and gay themes*, Boston: Alyson Publications, Inc., 1993.

Kathleen is the Deputy Director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund in Washington D. C. Her puzzles appear regularly in the *Washington Blade, Lambda Book Report* and other gay and lesbian publications throughout the country. The solution for this crossword will appear in the next *GZ NEWS*.

WORD GAYME # 43: YES, SIR!



© 1992 by Kathleen DeBold

ACROSS

1. J.E.B. work, ___ *to Eye: Portraits of Lesbians*
4. Pirate command
9. Site of a Mother Goose ménage à trois
12. Nigel Nicolson to Vita Sackville-West
13. George Eliot novel, _____ *Marner*
14. Rhea's cousin
15. Gilbert's musical partner, Sir Arthur _____
17. Electric guitar necessities
18. Verdi opera
19. Supernatural power
20. Carousal
22. Sir _____ Churchill
26. Machine parts
27. Chevalier's *Gigi* co-star
28. Roman 51
29. Wonder

ACROSS (Cont'd)

30. Theatrical designer, Sir _____ Beaton
31. Large
32. Concerning
33. Argyle or tube
34. Church part
35. English philospher, Sir _____ Bacon
37. Clean and _____
38. Chinese pan
39. Chop _____
40. Sketch
42. British actor/gay activist, Sir Ian _____
46. Melody
47. Well grounded
48. Spanish cheer
49. Fashionable (in the '60s)
50. Gay _____ Day
51. Louse egg

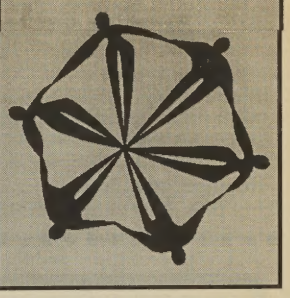
DOWN

1. Curve
2. Armistead Maupin's *Sure of* ___
3. Make bigger
4. On reserve
5. Elvis flick, ___ *Las Vegas*
6. Proust's ___ *Recherche du temps perdu*
7. ___ Francisco
8. Poet Eliot
9. Entice
10. Dave Pallone, for one
11. William Inge play, ___ *Stop*
16. *sex*, ____, *and videotape*
17. Trade org.
19. Organic compound
20. Muffler
21. Actor Tyrone _____
22. Kills, Mafia style
23. Janine Veto's book
24. Mediteranean fruit
25. African nation
27. "This" to Proust
30. Rooster
31. Kenneth Anger's *Hollywood* _____
33. Winter precipitation
34. British playwright, Sir ____ Coward
36. Lammy or Emmy
37. Lesbian torch singer
39. Slide on ice
40. Big dike?
41. ___ de Janeiro
42. Deface
43. Roman 151
44. Biblical judge
45. Tennis barrier
47. Quayle or Gore, e.g.

Solution to last month's Puzzle

WORD GAYME # 51: ANSWERS

H	U	N	G		L	A	N	G		Z	A	P
A	S	I	A		E	L	I	A		A	L	A
D	E	N	Y		A	L	L	Y		M	A	R
			B	A	S	S		S	A	I	N	T
G	A	Y	E	S	T		V	E	X			
A	R	E	A	S		S	I	X		W	A	S
S	I	L	T		F	E	M		G	A	S	P
H	A	L		G	I	N		M	A	L	T	A
			B	A	N		G	A	Y	L	I	T
K	O	P	A	Y		H	U	L	L			
A	M	A			M	E	A	T		O	B	E	Y
T	I	P			E	G	G	S		V	A	S	E
E	T	A			N	O	S	Y		E	Y	E	S



I talked recently with my best friend from California about a recent victory she experienced in her personal life. On Father's Day her parents, well known missionaries, consented to meet her partner for the first time in their ten year relationship.

My friend, Sandra, was amazed and flustered. Not only did her parents meet Janet, they also actually came inside their "den of iniquity" —a spacious two bedroom townhouse—another first for them.

They spoke congenially with Janet and admired the apartment. They even invited Janet to go to brunch with them, which Janet graciously declined. The conversation at the restaurant centered on Sandra's work with MCC Long Beach and another ministry of which she is co-founder.

When they dropped Sandra back off at her apartment, her mom reached over and handed her three newspaper clippings, saying that she had been saving them over the past year to give to Sandra. Sandra saw that they all dealt with "ex-gay ministries." She very politely told her parents, "You know I really don't believe in these kinds of programs. I believe I'm living the life God wants me to live and I'm with the partner God has for me." Her parents replied, "We know we don't agree with you on this issue, but we want you to know we love you and we aren't bitter at Janet either. We're praying for the both of you."

As Sandra related this to me she said, "They didn't consent to meet Janet because of a change of theology, but because of a change in attitude."

I thought about this as I read about the friend of the court brief that the Presbyterian Church of America filed in the Supreme Court asking them to uphold the unconstitutionality of Amendment 2. In their brief, the denomination clearly states that they believe homosexuality is a sin, but they also pointed to a resolution they passed in 1978 at their General Assembly that said "vigilance must be exercised to oppose federal, state and local legislation that discriminates against persons on the basis on their sexual orientation."

Again, not a change in theology but a change in attitudes.

I found it ironic that the founder and driving force behind Amendment 2, Will Perkins, is a member of this denomination which now has acted publicly and compassionately to oppose this obvious attempt to strip gays and lesbians of their civil rights.

I must confess I sometimes wonder what all the fuss is about. What do the people of Colorado, indeed of the nation, have to fear from me? What is so evil about me that an organization that supposedly stands for "Family Values" feels that millions of dollars is better spent on enacting and enforcing legislation to take away my rights rather than to spend it on addressing the problems of domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, teen pregnancies and other ills that attack families of all shapes and sizes? Is it because I am in a monogamous lifetime relationship with a woman whom I firmly believe is a gift of God to me? Is it because we own a home that we have poured thousands of dollars into to fix up and thus increase the value of our home and neighborhood? Is it because we are eagerly awaiting the birth of our first child—an answer to prayer that was two years in its fulfillment? Perhaps its' because I'm a taxpayer...maybe it's the fact that I'm an evangelical Christian (that's certainly a title that has unfortunately been given an "evil definition" recently.) The sad truth is that none of these is what makes me a perversion of normalcy according to the beliefs of CFV. It is simply the fact that my partner and I, both women, also enjoy a sexual relationship. A sexual act, that many heteros engage in, is the reason why Kevin Tebedo identified us as a "perversion of what's normal" on a recent call-in radio show.

How sad, that so much energy and focus has been put on demonizing a people for the simple reason that they feel and express love in the same way as heterosexuals, only they do it with someone of the same sex.

Perhaps Will Perkins and CFV can take a lesson from his own denomination: no one is asking you to approve or validate our love. We only want the right to live in love with equal protection under the law. We're not asking for a change of theology—only a change of attitude. What are you afraid of losing if you practice love instead of fear, tolerance instead of ignorance? It's biblical, it's ethical and it's the right thing to do.

Sandra's parents give me hope that even the most adamantly dogmatic and homophobic people can, if given enough time and patience, come around to love's perspective. I invite you to join me in prayer that the backers of Amendment 2 will take the journey also. May God bless you this month!

JULY 1995

Send your listings to GZ CALENDAR, P. O. Box 1982
COS CO 80901 FAX: (719) 635-6106 V (719) 635-6086
Please, Make Submissions by the Twentieth of each month

1 Saturday
FINAL PIG SHOW FOR SCAP
H&S

2 Sunday
PUEBLO MCC (543-6466) 12:30 P
COLO SPRNGS MCC 5P
COURT SHOW H&S

5 Wednesday
INSIDE OUT YOUTH GROUP
6PM PRIDE CENTER

6 Thursday
DIVERSITY CHORUS
REHERSAL (All Souls) 7p
MISTY MCCRAE
FUNDRAISER H&S

7 Friday
TRUE COLORS OLDIES NITE
ALL MALE REVIEW H&S

8 Saturday
BOB BERNSTEIN Book Signing
Chinook Book Store See P. 4
ARMISTEAD MAUPIN
Reading/Lecture/Booksigning
GZ/The Pride Center 8PM See P. 1
A CELEBRATION OF PRIDE
SHOW H&S
ALL MALE REVIEW Penthouse

9 Sunday
PUEBLO MCC (543-6466) 12:30 P
COLO SPRNGS MCC 5P
COURT SHOW H&S

10 Monday
CGRA SUPPER $3.50
BD MEETING 6:30
GEN MEMBER MEETING
SEE P. 9

11 Tuesday
MARRIAGE RIGHTS
PROJECT COALTION TOWN
MEETING 7:30 PRIDE
CENTER SEE P. 13

12 Wednesday
P-FLAG NEW MEMBER 6PM
FULL MEETING 7PM
WEST INTERGENRATIONAL CENTER

13 Thursday
DIVERSITY CHORUS
REHERSAL (All Souls) 7p
MISTY MCCRAE
FUNDRAISER H&S

15 Saturday
ROCKY MTN REGIONAL
RODEO DENVER SEE P. 9

16 Sunday
ROCKY MTN REGIONAL
RODEO DENVER SEE P. 9
PUEBLO MCC (543-6466) 12:30 P
COLO SPRNGS MCC 5P
COURT SHOW H&S

19 Wednesday
INSIDE OUT YOUTH GROUP
6PM PRIDE CENTER

20 Thursday
DIVERSITY CHORUS
REHERSAL (All Souls) 7p
MISTY MCCRAE
FUNDRAISER H&S

21 FRIDAY
All Male Review H&S

22 Saturday
BROWN SUGAR CGRA BENE-
FIT H&S
TORN JEANS NITE Penthouse

HAVE YOU
VISITED THE
PRIDE CENTER
125 N. PARKSIDE

23 Sunday
PUEBLO MCC (543-6466) 12:30 P
COLO SPRNGS MCC 5P
COURT SHOW H&S

24 Monday
CGRA BD MEETING H&S

26 Wednesday
INSIDE OUT YOUTH GROUP
6PM PRIDE CENTER

27 Thursday
DIVERSITY CHORUS
REHERSAL (All Souls)
7p
MISTY MCCRAE
FUNDRAISER H&S

30 Sunday
PUEBLO MCC (543-6466) 12:30 P
COLO SPRNGS MCC 5P
COURT SHOW H&S

RUTH (MOM) BRADY'S
80TH BIRTDAY CELEBRA-
TION AT THE H&S
COVERED PLATE DINNER
AND COCKTAILS 2PM

DON'T MISS
Armistead
Maupin
Saturday
July 8 8pm
PRIDE
CENTER

S-CAP can be contacted in the following ways:
Colorado Springs
P. O. Box 311 80901
(719) 578-9092
TDD AVAILABLE
Pueblo
P. O. Box 3277 81005
(719) 561-2616
Alamosa
P. O. Box 1370 81101
(719) 589-8412
Toll Free in 719 area code: 1-800-241-5468
FOR HIV TESTING, PRE-POST TEST COUNSELING:
El Paso Cty Health Dpt.
(719) 578-3148
Otero Cty Health Dept.
(719) 384-2584
Pueblo Health Dept.
(719) 544-8376
Valley-Wide Health Services, Inc-Alamosa
(719) 589-5161
AGENCIES FUNDED THROUGH THE SOUTHERN COLORADO AIDS CONSORTIUM:
El Paso Cty Health Dpt.
(719) 578-3148
Pikes Peak Hospice
(719) 633-3400
S.E.T. of Colo. Spgs.
(719) 630-5476
The Monarch House Group, Inc.
(719) 634-0133
Visiting Nurse's Agency Association
(719) 577-4448

Resource Guide

ANTI- VIOLENCE PROJECT (AVP)
(719) 338-8899
A 24-hour confidential crisis hotline. If you are a victim of verbal harassment, physical violence, discrimination, domestic violence/partner abuse, sexual assault, etc., call the AVP.

COLO. GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (CGRA)
P. O. Box 15504 COS CO 80935
(719) 576-CGRA

DIGNITY
P.O. Box 1172 COS CO 80901 (719) 635-5773
A national organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgendered Catholics, their families and friends, is now in its third year serving Colorado Springs, Pueblo and the Southern Colorado area. Contact Michael for more information. ACTIVITIES: Mass for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and heterosexual communities is held the 1st & 3rd Saturdays each month at 7 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 21st & W. Colorado Avenue in Colorado Springs. A monthly fundraising brunch is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month, 11:30 a.m., at the Colorado Grill Restaurant, 512 W. Colorado Avenue. A monthly discussion/support group meets on the 3rd Thursday each month at Sacred Heart.

DIVERSITY CHORUS (DC)
235 E. Franklin Fountain Blvd COS CO
(719)635-4580

* EVANGELICALS CONCERNED RESOURCE CENTER
P. O. BOX 62466 COS CO 80962
A resource for materials involving Christianity and the Gay and Lesbian Community

* GROUND ZERO INC (GZ)
P. O. Box 1982 COS CO 80901
V 635-6086 F 635-6106
Ground Zero maintains a full-time office relocated in the new gay center (125 N. Parkside.) See our mission statement on Pg. 2.

HIDE AND SEEK (H&S)
505 W. Colorado Ave. COS CO 80903
(719) 634-9303
The largest & oldest Complex, with 4 bars and a restaurant, large show and dance bar, quiet pool room bar, country bar w/dance floor, teen club with juice bar and dance floor.

HOUR GLASS (HR)
2748 Airport Rd. COS CO 80910
(719) 471-2104

* INSIDE/OUT YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP
An adolescent support group for those questioning thier sexuality. Weekly meetings and activities. Call 578-3160 for more information.

* LA GUIA (LG)
P.O. Box 1335 COS CO 80901
(719) 473-6771
La Guia is a cultural awareness and advocacy service organization that encourages the inclusion of Hispano/Latino Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgendered, Gay Men and their friends by providing a diverse forum that is both autonomous and inter-active within the greater Gay and Lesbian Community.

MONARCH HOUSE (MHG)
P.O. Box 8169 COS CO 80933
(719) 634-0133
Provides Emergency Financial Rent/Mortgage Subsidies to People Living With Aids, Monthly Food Bank and Pantry, as well as Emergency Financial Utilities Subsidies. 501 (c)(3) Non-profit Org.

* NEW PHAZES (NP)
P. O. Box 6485 COS CO 80934
(718) 634-0236
To encourage cohesion in the Pikes Peak Region's Lesbian community by providing an open forum which stimulates, informs and entertains. Monthly meetings are the first Wed of each month--all welcome. Articles and submissions are also welcome.

PENTHOUSE (PH)
1715 N. Academy Blvd COS CO 80909
(719) 597-3314
Located on the eastside, provides something for everyone. During the week it has the feeling of a Friendly Neighborhood bar. Thurs., Friday and Saturday, it is the place to Dance and it's late night Fri. & Sat. After Hours Party Hdqtrs.

P-FLAG COS CO
P.O. BOX 10076 COS CO 80932
VM (719) 575-8658
and

P-FLAG PUEBLO
P..O. BOX 4484 Pueblo CO 81003
(719) 545-7426
Support group for family and friends of lesbians and gays, dedicated to the preservation of families in loving relationships.

* PIKES PEAK GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER (PPGLCC)
Helpline 471-4GAYS
P. O. Box 607 COS CO 80901
719) 471-4429

* PIKES PEAK METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC)
730 N. Tejon St COS CO 80903
(719) 634-3771
A Christian Church whose ministry is OPEN to all people, but with an outreach to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

PUEBLO AFTER 2
P. O. Box 1602 Pueblo CO 81002
V/F (719) 564-4004
A GLBT Organization serving the Pueblo area, working through education and community outreach.

SIMPLE JUSTICE
P.O. Box 93 COS CO 80901
(719) 528-6920

SOUTHERN COLO. AIDS PROJECT(S-CAP)
514 S. Tejon St. COS CO 80903
V (719) 578-9092

TRUE COLORS (TC'S)
1865 N. Academy Blvd. COS CO 80909
(719) 637-0773
Primarily a lesbian bar, the doors are open to everyone. There is a dance floor, pool tables, games, and drink specials Open W-S.

* UNITED COURT OF THE PIKES PEAK EMPIRE (UCPPE)
P. O. Box 6925 COS CO 80904
(719) 447-1092

WOMENS SOCIAL GROUP (WSG)
For info, call 471-4GAYS
A Social Support Organization for Women.

IF YOUR ORGANIZATION OR ACTIVITY IS NOT LISTED CALL 635-6086

* Indicates Group Located in Pride Center

Century 21
GRI
MLS
Cornerstone Real Estate Co., Inc.
1024 West Colorado Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904
Res. (719) 685-0621 / Fax (719) 632-8605
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COLORADO SPRINGS' DEPENDABLE
The Picnic Basket
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1701-A South 8th Street
635-0200

Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church
730 N. Tejon
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Voice/Fax 719-634-3771
Rev. Nori J. Rost, Pastor
Worship Time Sunday, 5:00 PM
Office Hours Tue-Wed: 1 PM-9-PM, Thu-Fri: 9 AM-5 PM

SIMPLE JUSTICE

MICHAEL J. DUNCAN
Attorney at Law
Criminal Defense
Military Law
Juvenile Law
Family Law
(719) 633-9977
130 E. Kiowa, Suite 602
Colorado Spring, CO 80903
FAX: (719) 633-9932
Internet: mduncan@usa.net

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MLS
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COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904
(719) 475-0905

GENTRY'S
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Colorado Springs, Co. 80903
(719) 632-0707

GILL FOUNDATION

La Guia

Dignity Southern Colorado

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

ABRAMS
jewelry design
Maggie Abrams
Hickman
2423½ West Colorado Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 634-8764

All Souls Unitarian Church

ALAMO HAIR DESIGN

CELEBRATION BOOKSTORE

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Computers made Simple
Emergency and On Call Repairs
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In Your Front Range Home or Office
Jim Valanter
Owner
Phones:
Voice: 635-4413
Pager: 442-1310

The American Indian Movement
Colorado Springs

The Pike Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center

POOR RICHARDS

HENRI'S RESTAUTRANT

Springs Magazine
Sharon Friedman Strauss
Associate Publisher
Director of Advertising
(719) 636-2001
SUNRISE PUBLISHING
716 N. Tejon • Colorado Springs, CO 80903

THE PENTHOUSE

Colorado Gay Rodeo Association
PPUR

Linda Sutton, M.A.
counselor • mediator • consultant
love matters for lesbians and gays
611 N. Nevada Ave. • Colorado Springs • 632-0465

New Phazes

THE CHINOOK FUND
Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice

CC BGALA

Women's Social Group

Inside Out Youth Group

UCCS BGALA

RESIST FUND

TRUE COLORS

USC ONE IN TEN

THE FUNDING EXCHANGE
Evangelicals Concerned

Pueblo After 2 NOW

Citizens Project

THE COLORADO SPRINGS MINORITY COALITION

Melinda Worthing
ART OF ESPRESSO
at the Worthing Studio & Gallery
2021 W. Colorado Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 632-9306

JULIE A. WOLFE
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Donna Bacon
Paralegal
10 Boulder Crescent, Suite 201
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
(719) 633-7101

Iron Springs Chateau

Burghard Falcon Floral Shoppes

Kimball's theatre

ALLIES FOR JUSTICE

THE UNITED COURT
Of The Pikes Peak Region

Body Scenter

Body Works

The Smokebrush Center

EQUALITY COLORADO

THE CHINOOK BOOKSHOP
INCORPORATED

Park Street Cafe

THE HIDE AND SEEK Complex

Alternative Women's Health Care
Nancy Wilsted, R.N.C., N.P.
Women's Health Nurse Practitioner
Board Certified
2212 West Colorado Avenue • Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 632-9969

Canine Corner

This spectacular view as seen from Pikes Peak Paradise Bed & Breakfast

DIVERSITY CHORUS

Uncommon Grounds
Purveyors of civilized necessities
#6 from our menu:
TUNA NICOISE SANDWICH
with Capers, Kalmata Olives, Red Onions, Balsamic Vinaigrette Sauce, Roma Tomatoes and Romaine Lettuce
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2609 W. COLORADO AVE.
633-1360
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Needmoor Fund

Pikes Peak Justice And Peace Commission

FIREFLY antiques

Compleat Gamer

THE NORTHWEST COALITION AGAINST MALICIOUS HARRASSMENT

THE FRAME APPROACH

THE INDEPENDENT